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Crisis in long-term care beds:

Hillel Lodge ready to act now

By Barry Fishman, editor

When the provincial government called for Request for Proposals (FRP) to add 96 new long-term care beds to be operational by 2010, Hillel Lodge thought they would have an excellent chance of receiving 21 of those beds. After all, they reasoned, all that would be necessary would be to finish off the interior of the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Pavilion. In a short nine months, they could be up and running, well ahead of any other home that had applied for beds.

Unfortunately, it was not to be. All 96 new beds went to St. Patrick's Home of Ottawa, located in Premier Dalton McGuinty's Ottawa South riding.

"There is no question they deserve it as well, it is not a competition," says Ingrid Levitz, president of the board of directors of Hillel Lodge. "The real tragedy is we could build 21 beds by the summer.

"Our wonderful and supportive community," she says, was going to provide the bridge financing until the project was completed and Hillel Lodge received the money from the government.

"Everything on paper," she says "suggested it was a winner."

And considering long-term care in Ottawa is short 850 beds and has reached a crisis situation, you would have thought the government would have jumped at the opportunity to get those extra beds opened quickly.

At a recently held roundtable

Opinion

discussion with Liberal candidates, Mitchell Bellman, president and CEO of the Federation, stressed how supportive the community is for the project and how quickly the beds could be made available. He also had a warning.

"The opportunity to use that roughed out space is time-limited because the Lodge, which is facing financial challenges of its own, will need to turn the space into revenue generating space," he says. "Once that happens, it won't be available for long-term care."

The Liberals say they are listening.

"You don't have to convince me," says Ottawa-West Nepean MPP and Minister of Health Promotion Jim Watson. "I had the opportunity to visit the roughed-out area and, quite frankly, it is ready to go."

John Fraser, the premier's representative in Ottawa, believes that thanks to the paperwork from the proposal already with the ministry, quick action can be taken once the election is over.

Watson is confident that Hillel will soon get the beds.

"I'm optimistic that one of two things will happen: there'll be some collaboration with St. Pat's in terms of beds, or we will be successful in putting Hillel at the top of the list [for new allocations], not because

(Continued on page 7)



Ready to go, but is the government?

Despite the crisis in long-term care beds, the government refused to fund Hillel Lodge's proposal to turn the Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Pavilion into a 21-bed floor. The project would have been ready in only nine months. Liberal MPP and Minister of Health Promotion Jim Watson has pledged to work to get the project going within six months of a new mandate.

(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)

Ontario Election 2007

Candidates meet with Federation committee

By Barry Fishman, editor

On two separate nights, five Conservative, four Liberal and two NDP candidates met with members of the Federation's Communications and Community Relations Committee (CCRC) to listen, learn and discuss the issues and concerns facing the community.

The goal, says Jeff Polowin, CCRC chair, was "to explain to the candidates what the Federation is all about, show them the community is very interested and involved in the political process and tell them what issues are

important to us."

"They can never say that they didn't hear about them."

"I think it has been important for them because they have the opportunity through the *Bulletin* to get their views out," Polowin says.

Election Coverage

• NDP candidates admit funding of education unfair

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• Conservatives remain united over faith-based school funding

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• Liberals promise quick action on long-term beds for Hillel Lodge

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Inspiring story and Jewtopia's laughs at Annual Campaign 2008 kickoff

By Diane Koven

Many of us first became familiar with the concept of "pay it forward" after viewing the Hollywood movie. Alina Spaulding has lived the concept and shared her personal story with a sold-out crowd of more than 800 people at the recent Jewish Federation of Ottawa Campaign 2008 Kickoff at Centrepointe Theatre.

Spaulding arrived in the United States from the former Soviet Union at the age of five with her parents and became an "American success story."

She completely integrated into American society; excelled in school, university and graduate school; and landed a prestigious job as Dean of Admissions at the American Hebrew Academy in Greensboro, North Carolina. The family was brought to the U.S., and assisted with all of their immigration and



Steven and Jocelyne Greenberg with Bryan Fogel and Sam Wolfson and, creators of Jewtopia.

(Photo: Peter Waiser)

integration needs, by Jewish agencies and individuals.

Spaulding's message to the Ottawa Jewish community, delivered with great passion and drama, was that everything she is, everything she has become and every-

thing she will do for other human beings, "everything, everything, EVERYTHING," is because of people like those in the audience. She urged every one of the audience members to listen to her story and think hard about the impact their help can have on someone; impact that may be felt for several generations.

Spaulding and her husband have adopted two young girls from Moldova, and in their act of "pay it forward," have given the girls the same kind of opportunities she herself was given. She encouraged everyone listening to her to think of how they, too, can help; to dig deep and give, so others can enjoy freedom and safety.

"Alina's story demonstrates how well, as Jews, we look after each other," said Stephen Greenberg, co-chair with his wife, Jocelyne, of the evening's program. "Your message is inspiring and exemplifies the famous rabbinic phrase, *Kol Israel*

eravin zeh bazez - All Jews are responsible for one another," he told her.

Debbie Weiss and Steven Kimmel, 2007 and 2008 Campaign chairs, told moving stories of how funds raised have helped Jews around the world. Kimmel praised the Ottawa community for its generosity in meeting last year's campaign goal of \$5 million and said, "This year's goal of \$5.2 million will be attained because we have so many committed



Alina Spaulding (left) with Steven Kimmel and Debbie Weiss.

(Photo: Peter Waiser)

people who understand what 'living generously' means."

Two priorities of the Federation this year are to engage the younger generation and to reach out to the unaffiliated.

"Our great-grandparents, grandparents and parents set a strong foundation on which we must continue to build," said Kimmel. "One of this year's priorities for the Federation is to ensure that our younger generation understands the importance of being involved. They need to be educated that living generously means not only giving money, but some of their time as well."

As well, he said, "an important role for the established leaders is to become mentors to the younger members of our community; to reach out, extend a welcome, guide them as they prepare to get involved, and train them to take leadership roles."

The evening concluded on a light note, with highlights from *Jewtopia*, a two-hour play, which recently concluded a highly successful off-Broadway run and is about to open in Toronto. Its creators, Bryan Fogel and Sam Wolfson, delighted the audience with their humourous sketches about stereotypical Jewish quirks.

**The Ottawa Post,
Jewish War Veterans
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**Annual General Meeting
and Luncheon**

Sunday, October 14 • 11:30 am

Agudath Israel Synagogue

**Guest speaker: Leonard Stern
Ottawa Citizen Editorial Pages Editor**

**Topic: The Balancing Act:
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The Ottawa Jewish Historical Society invites you and your friends to hear Ron Gould speak about

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JET breaks new ground in campus Jewish education

JET – Jewish Education through Torah – in its efforts to increase Jewish programming for university students and young adults in Ottawa, recently embarked on a new journey of Jewish education for university students when 20 students from Carleton University and the University of Ottawa attended the first session of the Maimonides Leaders Fellowship program at the new JSA-Hillel House. The program continues a longstanding relationship between JET and JSA.

The Maimonides Leaders Fellowship program was founded in 1999 at the University of Michigan and is now taught on more than 20 campuses in the United States and Canada.

The fellowship term lasts 10 weeks with students attending weekly seminars covering leadership with such topics as general understanding of Jewish life and thought and practical applications of leadership in society. During the fellowship term, students also participate in several off-campus field trips and community visits.

Students participating in the program are mentored by Jewish leaders from various fields enabling the participants to gain new perspectives on the world and on their own lives and selves



Rabbi Micah Shotkin (centre) speaks to university students during opening session of JET's Maimonides Leaders Fellowship Program held at the new JSA House.

while becoming more familiar with their roots. A stipend is paid upon program completion.

The first half of each week's session is led by JET's dynamic director of campus programming, Rabbi Micah Shotkin, with the second half led by various leaders from the Ottawa Jewish community.

In the first session, Rabbi Shotkin and the students discussed the characteristics of leaders around the world. Then, the guest speaker, Mitchell Bellman, president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, spoke about the importance of getting involved in the Jewish community in order to ensure the growth of the community. He discussed his Camp Gesher experiences and the important role it played in his Jewish education and in developing his leadership skills.

"I would not be where I am today, if it was not for my camp experience," he said.

In reference to the Maimonides Leaders Fellowship,

Bellman says "this program is tremendously important to building the future generations of this community."

Other guest speakers scheduled during the course include Carleton graduate Ben Feferman, Canadian campus director of Hesbara Fellowships, and community leaders Paul Claman and Ned Steinman. The course also includes a Shabbat experience and a day trip to various community agencies.

With the help of a generous grant from local donors, JET has hired Josh Margo, a former young adult programming co-ordinator from Calgary, to expand its campus

programming. Margo is working with Rabbi Shotkin to develop new programs for students on campus as well as assisting with the JET-setter program for young adults and singles.

Given sufficient interest, JET plans to run the Maimonides Leaders Fellowship program again next semester. This will be one of many new Jewish education opportunities offered to university students in Ottawa. Others include Aish Café, the first online course of its kind.

For more information about the course, and how to get involved, please contact JET at jet@jccottawa.com.

IN APPRECIATION:

I wish to express my sincerest appreciation to those who made donations, sent flowers and cards on the occasion of my 90th birthday. Your thoughtfulness, generosity and good wishes are so very much appreciated. Please accept this as my personal thank you.

Inez Zelikovitz

October 24 and 25, 2007

A Celebration of Jewish Studies in Ottawa

8:30 a.m. (24) 9 a.m. (25)
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Free

A colloquium organized by Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies (Carleton University) and the Verner Jewish Canadian Studies Program (University of Ottawa).

Scholars from Canada, the United States and Israel will present papers in diverse fields, among them medieval Jewish philosophy, Holocaust art, historical and contemporary Canadian Jewish Studies.

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Barbara Coloroso: genocide ultimate form of bullying

By Michael Regenstreif

"It is a short walk," says Barbara Coloroso, "from bullying to hate crimes to genocide."

Coloroso, an internationally renowned lecturer and author of several books on parenting, education and ethics, has turned her attention to genocide; to provide understanding of the crime against humanity and to find ways to stop and prevent it. Her latest book is titled, *Extraordinary Evil: A Brief History of Genocide and Why It Matters*.

Coloroso will be speaking at a Holocaust Education Week event in Ottawa on November 5 and recently spoke to the *Bulletin*.

Coloroso's passion for social justice took root in the brief time she spent as a Catholic nun.

"I'm glad I went in [to the convent] and I'm glad I left," she says. "I went very young and it was a wonderful experience. I had a year of silence and I worked in the civil rights movement; neither of which, would I probably have done, had I not gone in."

Her initial interest in the subject of genocide was sparked by a chance encounter with *Night*, Elie Wiesel's moving memoir of the Holocaust, originally published in 1958.

"I picked up the book in the Los Angeles airport in the late-'70s. I needed a book to read on a flight from L.A. to New York," she recalls. "When I landed, I was visibly shaken. I couldn't believe that I, with a master's degree, including majors and minors in phi-



Barbara Coloroso

losophy and theology, knew nothing about the Holocaust. I went back and looked at my old history books. It wasn't in there."

After reading *Night*, Coloroso set out to learn everything she could about the Holocaust and other genocides.

"I travel all over the world, so I would stop, when I was in Poland, or when I worked in Germany for our Department of Defense schools, and saw the concentration camps and the death camps."

Eventually, Coloroso met with Stephen Lewis, the former politician and Canadian diplomat who was the United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

"He got me involved in Africa with the orphans from the Rwandan genocide."

Coloroso departs from philosopher Hannah Arendt's theory that genocide represents the "banality of evil."

"It's not the banality of evil," she says. "It's the banality of the people committing the evil."

In drawing a line from bullying to hate crimes and, ultimately, to genocide, Coloroso says people often say they can't understand how, in the Rwandan genocide, someone could machete another human being to death.

"Well," she asks, "is it difficult to understand that in British Columbia they took Rena Virk, broke her arms and drowned her, as people cheered on?"

Genocide, according to Coloroso, is the ultimate form of bullying.

Coloroso says that when she started writing her previous book, *The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander*, she was disturbed that the majority of anti-bullying programs were based on conflict resolution.

"It's not about conflict. Conflict is normal and natural and necessary in people's lives. Bullying is alarm behaviour in which you actually have to be taught that somebody is outside your circle of moral concern. How does a culture, how does a family, how does a religion, teach people that other people are outside their circle of moral concern? I think that's key to understanding how

someone can kill someone else."

In *Extraordinary Evil*, Coloroso writes about three 20th century genocides – the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the Tutsi Genocide in Rwanda – and decries the fact that the world seems not to have learned to stop and prevent such horrors from happening over again. Coloroso quotes Canadian author Gerald Caplan, "Never again keeps happening again and again and again."

Coloroso says the world must not stand by and allow genocide to happen.

"Had the allies really wanted to stop the genocide of the Jews, they would have bombed the railroad tracks," she says. "Jews were sent back, boatloads of them."

In the Tutsi Genocide, she says, the world stood by under the guise on neutrality.

"The world saw it as a conflict," she explains, and sent in peacekeepers who "must remain neutral and impartial with the consent of both parties. That's not what you do when they're committing genocide."

Coloroso said she recently spoke with Elie Wiesel about the ongoing genocide in Darfur. "We can never give up," the Nobel Laureate told her. "But that doesn't mean we become silent. Indifference is the worst thing."

Coloroso's lecture is Monday, November 5, 7:00 pm, at Sir Robert Borden High School. Tickets (\$8 adults, \$5 students) must be reserved by calling 613-798-4696, ext. 236.

Join the Mission to Ottawa

Here is your chance to see your Jewish community in a whole new light!

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa will take you by bus on a tour of your community on Thursday, October 11. You will start with a reception at 6 pm at the Soloway JCC. Beginning at 7:00 pm, you will board the bus to visit a variety of agencies that contribute to your community's success. You'll tour the facilities, meet agency representatives and hear about what they do, who they help and how you can get involved.

Make it your mission to participate in the *Mission to Ottawa* and meet the people who make a difference to your community each and every day.

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IT DOES A WORLD OF GOOD

Choose CHOICES to make a difference in your community

Editor's note: JFO Chair Jonathan Freedman has arranged to share his column, on occasion, with the chairs or presidents of the community's major beneficiary agencies or committees so they can provide some insight into their operations.

Every day, we make choices that provide us with wonderful opportunities to grow. The phrase, *Life is what you make it*, speaks to our ability to choose options that can forever change and shape our lives.

The Women's Campaign of the Annual Campaign wanted to create an outreach program to reach women in all corners of the community, provide insight and information about the Federation and the community and emphasize the integral role and influence women have and will continue to have in effecting change in our community.

With this in mind, the Women's Campaign is pleased to present *CHOICES*, an elegant evening event, accessible to all women in the community, that will deliver a powerful message about the choices our respected speaker has made in her life, as well as provide an interactive forum for open debate about the choices many of us have made and will make in our lives.

Our guest speaker is Irshad Manji, a



Federation Report

Jennifer Kardash
Women's Campaign
CHOICES event

senior fellow with the European Foundation for Democracy and a social entrepreneur who has launched *Projeto Ifthah*, an initiative to develop the world's first leadership network for reform-minded Muslims.

Manji is a provocative and controversial author who has made choices in her life that have set her on a very specific path. She is the best-selling author of *The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim's Call for Reform in Her Faith*. She has been declared "Osama Bin Laden's worst nightmare" by the *New York Times* and was the inaugural winner of Oprah Winfrey's first annual Chutzpah Award for her audacity, nerve, boldness and conviction. *Ms. Magazine* chose Manji as a Feminist for the 21st Century and *Maclean's* magazine selected her as one of 10 Canadians Who Make a Difference.

She travels the globe to lecture about the

liberal reformation of Islam. She has spoken to audiences including Amnesty International, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, United Nations Press Corps, Democratic Muslims of Denmark, National Committee on American Foreign Policy, International Women's Forum, Swedish Defense Research Agency, Pentagon, Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute and universities from Cambridge to the President Clinton School of Public Service.

Manji's personal story informs, inspires and, undoubtedly, motivates women to take charge of their lives and care about their community and emphasizes one's ability to effect change through the power of choice.

The format for *CHOICES* is different from other community events in that table captains have been selected to invite nine other women to sit at a table. The selection process has been geared to integrating different social networks within the community and those less familiar with the community and the work the Federation does locally and abroad. Community tables will be available for those women wishing to attend this not-to-be-missed event.

It was the success of the Vancouver *CHOICES* event, now in its third year, that

inspired me to develop this program in Ottawa. I was struck by the sense of unity the program created when gathering hundreds of women together to celebrate making choices for the greater good.

I want to engage more women in our community to set an example of compassion and commitment for our children and our grandchildren to follow. It is my hope that, through innovative programming like *CHOICES*, the Women's Campaign will start to inspire more women of all ages, backgrounds and income levels to get involved in a way they haven't before.

We are thrilled to feature Irshad Manji as our guest speaker for this inaugural event. *CHOICES* will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at Agudath Israel Synagogue. Cocktails are at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:45 pm. For more information about this event, please contact Lindsay Rothenberg at 613-798-4696, ext. 270 or rothenberg@jewishottawa.com. No tickets will be available at the door.

Choose to come to *CHOICES* and make it the first of many important choices in the year ahead. Our future is in your hands ... The choice is yours! I look forward to seeing you there.

Safe landing following the High Holidays

As this paper goes to print, the holiday season of Tishrei is coming to a close with the great celebration of Simchat Torah.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are largely cerebral holidays. During these holidays, each individual prays according to his or her intellectual or emotional capacity. On these holidays, each Jew is on a different personal level, opening up to God his or her way. However, the season closes with Simchat Torah, which expresses what we have in common.

Let's examine what actually takes place on this holiday. All reserve disappears in the exuberant dancing of Simchat Torah. Every Jew feels a natural desire to take a Torah scroll in his arms and celebrate. Hidden resources of joy and energy we did not know we possess surface. The source of this happiness, the centre of attention, is, of course, the Torah. Yet, throughout the celebrations, the Torah is not opened; we dance holding it wrapped in its mantle.

Furthermore, on Simchat Torah, people do not usually add to their usual schedule of Torah study. If anything, the opposite is true. Although the Torah is usually associated with disciplined study, on Simchat Torah we approach it differently, singing and dancing in a manner that bears no apparent relationship to Torah scholarship.

The reason for these celebrations on Simchat Torah is that intellect is not the only means through which a person can connect with the Torah. One dimension of



From the pulpit

Rabbi
Menachem Blum
OTC Chabad

the Torah can be defined and grasped by our minds. Another is infinite and beyond all human comprehension.

The infinite aspect of the Torah represents its essence, for "God and His Torah are one."

Just as God is infinite, transcending all bounds and limitations, so too is the Torah, extending beyond the confines of human understanding. Accordingly, for man to relate to Torah, his commitment must mirror this infinity. The intellectual dimension of the Torah is crucial, but does not define its essence.

On Simchat Torah, man reaches out to God and attempts to connect with the aspect of Torah that is one with Him. This requires stepping beyond the restrictions of one's own rational mindset. And this is precisely what takes place when a Jew dances with a Torah scroll on Simchat Torah.

This is what makes Simchat Torah different from the other holidays. All Jews, learned or unscientific, share equally in the Simchat Torah celebrations because they tap a point in the soul, which, by nature of its infinity, defies the entire con-

cept of rank and gradation. At this level of soul, no difference exists between one Jew and another. The basic commonality linking us all makes us join hands and dance together, oblivious to the personal differences that might otherwise create barriers between us.

What separates Jews, both literally and figuratively, is how high their heads are. The feet, however, are all equal, because they are all on the ground. There is no difference between my feet and yours. So, on Simchat Torah, we carry the Torah and dance on our feet, to remind us that our dedication to the Torah renders us all equal.

Simchat Torah is the point of transition between the intense spiritual experience of the High Holidays and our daily, down-to-earth circumstances. This safe landing is navigated by means of the rejoicing of Simchat Torah.

These celebrations enhance our bond with God, the Torah and our people, unconfined by the limits of intellect. And it inspires every aspect of our conduct throughout the year. So this year, join in this awesome experience at your shul, say a *L'Chaim* and land safely into the New Year with a renewed vigour and energy. *L'Chaim*.

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Canada

Unlike other homes, Lodge faces unique challenges

(Continued from page 1)

we want to give you preferential treatment, but because you're ready and we need the beds now, not six years from now."

Watson promises to "undertake to see what we can do within the first six months [of the new mandate] to get this project to the top of the list."

Over the years, Hillel Lodge has been forced to buy long-term care beds from other institutions willing to sell them, to meet the needs of the community. Of the 100 beds in the Lodge, only 17 were given out by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Even with the new beds, Hillel Lodge still faces many challenges. Perhaps its biggest goes to the core of what the Lodge is: remaining predominately a Jewish and kosher home for the aged. Under the government's crisis admission program, the Lodge has been forced, in the last two years, to take in 48 new residents languishing in hospital beds throughout the city. The Lodge's central location, and its outstanding care, means most decide to stay.

It is a situation faced by other homes that cater to ethnic communities. Richard Raymond, Conservative candidate in Ottawa South, has sat on the board of Villa Marconi, a long-term care facility built by the Italian community. They are, he says,



Editor

Barry Fishman

facing the exact same problem.

One just has to walk into the Lodge to realize what a special place it is. On any given day, volunteers and staff are holding special events for the residents, celebrating Jewish holidays and the incredible Lodge Auxiliary is busily raising funds, through its gift store and other activities, to make life better for the residents.

Hillel Lodge is, without a doubt, an institution that is dearly loved by the Jewish community. Unfortunately, because of the crisis in long-term beds, the Lodge, through no fault of its own, is often forced to delay admission for long-time members of the community. Naturally, this is upsetting to the many that have supported Hillel Lodge financially over the years and now find there is no room for their loved ones.

No one in the community, or at the Lodge, is suggesting non-Jews are not welcome. What they are saying is that it is important it remains a predominately Jewish institution.



The Joseph and Inez Zelikovitz Pavilion awaits go-ahead for 21 new long-term beds.

The answer is for the government to quickly begin building long-term care beds in Ottawa and take pressure off places like Hillel Lodge and Villa Marconi that cater to religious and ethnic groups.

Funding the 21 beds at Hillel Lodge is a start in that process.

The Lodge has been chosen to do a pilot palliative care study.

"We are very excited about this," says Levitz. "All levels of the staff, from nursing to dietary to custodial and anyone else who is in contact with residents, including board members, are being trained in aspects of

palliative care."

The Internet-based learning program, a project of University of Ottawa and Élizabeth Bruyère Health Care Centre, will "increase the confidence among those dealing with palliative care and make the journey positive for the residents of Hillel and their families," says Morac Burch, director of nursing at Hillel Lodge.

The four-section e-program also contains a resource library and allows Hillel staff to view it on-line at work or at home.

Burch expects that once the glitches are worked out, the program will be made available to other institutions throughout Canada.

Politics and religion liven up Ontario election

Want to liven up a boring dinner party? Or maybe ruin it entirely?

Here's what you can do: Bring the conversation around to politics. Or religion. Or both, if you're feeling particularly reckless.

The Ontario election campaign, which will culminate with the vote on October 10, initially promised to be as boring as a bad dinner party. With the fixed election date known for months, unofficial campaigning began well before the summer.

And it looked as if it would be one of the least interesting races in years, featuring leaders almost indistinguishable in appearance and in policy.

Then along came politics and religion. The former in the form of polls showing a tight race between Dalton McGuinty's governing Liberals and John Tory's opposition Progressive Conservatives, and the possibility of a minority government. And the latter in the form of an issue that quickly came to dominate the campaign: Tory's proposal to extend public funding to all faith-based schools.

On one level, this proposal didn't seem as if it would be all that controversial. With the exception of the four Atlantic Provinces, every province in the country - Ontario included - funds religious schools to some extent.

But Ontario, of course, is the only



Alan Echenberg

province that funds schools of only one religious group - Roman Catholics - and no other.

It is a situation that has long irked two different groups in the province: Those who pay substantial tuition fees to send their kids to non-Catholic faith-based schools, including Jewish day schools; and those who believe that no religious schools - Catholic included - should receive any public funds at all.

For the broader Ontario public, though, it is seldom a top-of-mind - much less a ballot-box - issue.

That all changed, of course, after the PC party introduced its platform this summer.

John Tory's plan is different from previous Conservative government policy. It proposes to bring non-Catholic faith-based schools into the public system, and make them accountable to the Ministry of Education, rather than simply giving tax breaks to parents who send their kids to such schools.

Again, this is similar in approach to

other provincial governments, but ... well, remember what happens at dinner parties when you start talking about religion and politics?

Imagine that your dinner guests are competing with each other to be premier of Ontario.

The Liberals sensed an opening - a wedge issue that would separate their guy from the otherwise-indistinguishable guy running against him. So, McGuinty asserted that Tory's proposal would "segregate" Ontario students and put the province's "social cohesion" at risk. Rabbi Reuven Bulka - who happens to be the premier's friend and neighbour - accused McGuinty in print of "taking the road of divisiveness."

Tory didn't help his own cause by stumbling over a reporter's question about whether his plan would allow publicly funded Christian schools to teach creationism in class.

"It's still called the 'theory' of evolution," Tory freelanced in reply, provoking a flurry of clarifications from his aides.

"Creationism OK with Tory," one typical headline read the next day.

Whether or not they were fair, generating such headlines does not win you elections in the province of Ontario in the year 2007.

Also, Tory's proposal may have alienated a chunk of his party's rural base, some of whom are still not happy with Premier Bill

Davis's surprise decision to extend full funding to Catholic schools two decades ago - a decision that contributed to the party losing power in 1985, for the first time in four decades.

But the more the Liberals attacked the Tory proposal, the more they faced questions of their own. By attacking a plan to fund non-Catholic faith-based schools as segregationist, while defending the continued separate funding of Catholic schools, which he himself attended, the premier exposed himself to charges of hypocrisy and cynicism.

In fact, the Liberal strategy on the issue seemed to walk a tightrope between muddying the contradictions of the party's own position, while painting the Conservative proposal as nothing other than a scheme to undermine public education.

In the meantime, a growing number of public school boards have voted in favour of motions to eliminate Catholic school boards entirely, a position supported by the provincial Green Party, and - if the polls are correct - a growing number of citizens in an increasingly secular age.

The polls - as I write - continue to show a tight race. This is turning out to be one lively dinner party. With the potential for lots of broken plates at the end.

Alan Echenberg is TVOntario's Parliamentary bureau chief.

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Leading thinker calls for innovative, Jewish approach to social work

By Michael Regenstreif

Reimagining what being Jewish means for Jewish social work agencies in North America in the 21st century is a central challenge for agencies like Jewish Family Services (JFS), according to Rabbi Irwin Kula, one of today's leading Jewish thinkers.

Rabbi Kula, president of New York-based CLAL – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, is a frequent media commentator with appearances on CNN, Fox News, the Oprah Winfrey Show and Frontline among his many credits. He will be in Ottawa October 16 to address the JFS annual general meeting.

Although JFS of Ottawa was founded relatively recently, in 1980, Rabbi Kula told the *Bulletin* in a telephone interview that many of the Jewish social work agencies in North America were founded in the 19th and early-20th centuries, an era that preceded the integration of the Jewish community into the larger North American society.

"Jews, though, have become integrated into the general society over the past few decades," said Rabbi Kula, and this creates new questions on the role of such agencies in the North American Jewish experience.

Rabbi Kula pointed to two "central, cutting edge" questions that he feels need to be addressed. "Does Jewish wisdom add value to the social work services that can also be found in secular agencies? And what is it that

However, he stressed, "Jewish wisdom has to work for Jews and non-Jews alike," which, he said, presents a very significant challenge with Jewish values having to compete in today's spiritual marketplace.

As an example, Rabbi Kula asked if there were lessons from the Yom Kippur Torah reading about Aaron's sacrifices on behalf of himself, the leadership and the people, that can be applied to family therapies and to contemporary thinking about the nature of authority.

Understanding how to merge ancient Jewish wisdom with contemporary insight is the theme of Rabbi Kula's 2006 well-received book, *Yearnings: Embracing the Sacred Messiness of Life*, in which he discusses how traditional practices and teachings can be used to enrich modern life.

Rabbi Kula, whose rabbinic training was done at Jewish Theological Seminary of America, said that his thinking about contemporary issues has been "generated by tremendous faith in Judaism as a wisdom-tradition."

But, he stressed as the interview drew to a close, the contemporary challenge in applying Jewish wisdom to social work practices, is to "loosen the tribal and familial belongings that make it [Jewish wisdom] only for Jews and be able to apply to anyone going through crises."

In addition to Rabbi Kula's address, the evening will also include the installation of the Board of Directors and the presentation of the Elaine Rabin Social Service Award.

The Jewish Family Services of Ottawa annual general meeting takes place Tuesday, October 16 at 7:00 pm at the JFS offices, 2255 Carling Avenue, third floor. Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP by calling 613-722-2225 by October 9.

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To all my friends who sent me get well cards and made charitable donations wishing me a speedy recovery, your thoughtfulness has given me a most uplifting feeling on the road to recovery.

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Swinging into high gear

The JNF Ottawa office is really humming these days as arrangements for Negev Dinner 2007 swing into high gear. This year, we're proud to be honouring the very worthy Jim Orban, publisher of the *Ottawa Citizen*. CNN talk show host Larry King is delivering the keynote address.

Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, Jim Durrell, Stephen Greenberg and Paul Hinde are sharing duties as Negev Dinner Chairs. The event is scheduled to take place at the Ottawa Congress Centre on Thursday, October 25. To purchase your ticket, call the JNF office 613-798-2411.

The 2007 Negev Dinner honouree began his newspaper career in 1972 at the *Ottawa Journal*, moved to the *Ottawa Citizen* in 1975 and the *Edmonton Journal* in 1991, returning to the *Citizen* in 1994. In 2003, he was appointed publisher of the *Ottawa Citizen*.

Jim Orban has received numerous professional and community awards, including the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation Civic Entrepreneur of the Year Award (2002) and the Trudeau Medal from the University of Ottawa (2004). He was the first recipient of the 'Just One Person' award in 2006 which launched a scholarship at the University of Ottawa exclusively for youth-in-care. In 2004 the University of Ottawa's School of Management established the James E. Orban Scholarship to award annual bursaries to students demonstrating leadership and academic excellence. Rabbi Bulka has the highest praise for the 2007 honouree. "Jim is a man who is wholly and profoundly immersed in the totality of the Ottawa Community," he says. "He is the personification of an ideal human being, efficient but not overbearing, kind but not solicitous, caring but not intrusive, jovial but not flippant. Jim is well deserving of the honour JNF is bestowing on him."

Since the founding of the state, JNF has improved the quality of life for generations of Israelis. Now the organization is assisting some of Israel's most vulnerable citizens by putting a human face on its vital work and again demonstrating its centrality to the well-being and future of the Jewish people.

The project selected by Mr. Orban is a Residential Village for Autistic Young Adults in Beersheva. JNF will provide all landscaping and infrastructure work on the complex, where some 48 young adults will learn to function as independently as possible in a highly supervised and supporting environment.

More than 5,000 Israelis have been diagnosed with autism, with about 250 infants newly diagnosed each year. By helping these young Israelis live their lives normally as possible, JNF demonstrates a reach far beyond forests, reservoirs and desert outposts. Indeed, to declare that the greater community will care for and love these children is a powerful message to the world: Every child has an identity and no child will be left behind.

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International scholar to lecture on Lowy Haggadah manuscript

By Leah Cohen

On Wednesday, October 24, Dr. Emile Schrijver, curator of the University of Amsterdam's historic Biblioteca Rosenthaliana, will present an illustrated lecture at Library and Archives Canada entitled: *Uncovering the Lowy Haggadah Manuscript*.

Schrijver, an expert in 18th century Hebrew manuscripts, has written extensively on the topic and was invited as the guest speaker in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection.

An avid bibliophile, Jacob Lowy donated his personal collection of Hebraica and Judaica to the former National Library of Canada, now Library and Archives Canada, where Cheryl Jaffee is its curator.

The Lowy Haggadah was created by the scribe/illuminator Elkanah ben Meir Mailir, in Altona, Germany, 1763. What is surprising is that, despite the widespread use of printing 250 years ago, the haggadah is decorated and written by hand.

One might say this is an example of a "retro" fashion in the 18th century amongst Jews in central and northern



Lowy Haggadah Manuscript (Altona, 1763)

Europe to produce their own hand-written and hand-illuminated copies/versions of popular printed works. Scholars estimate that only about 450-500 of these manuscripts remain today, be they haggadot, circumcision manuals or individualized prayer-books.

Why was there a sudden popularity of this seemingly anachronistic mode of production? What does it do to our perception of traditional Judaism to learn that many of our manuscripts had self-conscious elements in the choice of decoration?

Who commissioned these works and who were the

scribes or artists? Was the market only limited to Court Jews, who carried out treasury functions for German or Austrian rulers in the 17th and 18th century, or to the middle class as well? Is this phenomenon a continuation of the traditional Jewish scribal arts or a borrowing from the surrounding non-Jewish culture, where even playing boards, cards and fans were decorated with miniature illuminations?

The colourful *Lowy Haggadah*, with its opaque watercolours and Omer-calendar, has its own peculiarities and idiosyncratic illustrations.

What were the visual sources that inspired these illuminations? Was the purpose didactic, illustrative of Biblical and midrashic verses or eschatological, emphasizing redemption? Dr. Schrijver's talk will place the *Lowy Haggadah* in its social and historical context.

The lecture will take place at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington, in the Auditorium on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 7:30 pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be served. A special exhibition of haggadot from the Jacob M. Lowy Collection will accompany the lecture.

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Election 2007: meet the candidates NDP candidates admit funding of education system unfair

By Barry Fishman

Attending a high school in Montreal that included Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh students enriched her life and educational experience, says Lynn Hamilton, NDP candidate in Ottawa West-Nepean.

"I wasn't in this little fish bowl of one set of beliefs. I believe in having schools where people of multi-faiths come together, teach each other about their faiths and work alongside each other so they learn not just to tolerate but to accept another religion. I think that is one of the things we should strive for," she says.

Hamilton and Edelweiss D'Andrea, NDP candidate in Ottawa South, attended the Federation's Communications and Community Relations Committee roundtable meeting with the NDP to talk about issues of particular interest to the Jewish community in the October 10 provincial election.

Admitting that the funding of only Catholic schools is unfair, D'Andrea says it is a remnant of the British North America Act and would be difficult to change. She expects, "Ontario will eventually do away with the dual systems."

Hamilton believes merging the Catholic with the public system would be difficult to do without proper planning and would lead to job layoffs. Something the NDP is loath to do.

"The NDP is a party that values protecting jobs. One-hundred and seventy thousand manufacturing jobs



(From left to right): Mitchell Bellman, NDP candidates Edelweiss D'Andrea and Lynn Hamilton and Jonathan Freedman and Rubin Friedman and Jeff Polowin.

(QJB Photo: Michael Regenstreif)

were lost in Ontario in the past two years. This is a major issue for us. So we are not going to immediately do away with the [Catholic] school board and cut thousands of teachers and support staff jobs without studying the issue," Hamilton argues.

She says the reality is the Liberals are using the faith-based school funding issues to deflect attention from serious problems the public school system is facing.

"Our focus is to fix the public school system that is already here. We have a number of schools that are struggling under a flawed funding system. We have some very serious issues that need to be addressed and we want to work on them right now."

When it comes to hate crimes, the NDP would take a strong stance, including possible funding for communities at risk.

"Hate crimes are a very serious issue. We would take

strong action to prevent them and deal with those who commit them," Hamilton says.

Both women stressed they would oppose a boycott of Israel.

The NDP is committed to reversing the downloading of provincial services to the cities and supporting more community housing and long term care.

"McGuinty was supposed to take a strong look at this and nothing has happened. Our position is to upload the responsibilities that the province is supposed to be responsible for and free up the city financial resources for what the city is supposed to be responsible for," says Hamilton.

They would also like to see more funds made available for long-term care facilities like Hillel Lodge.

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Public Announcement

Please be informed that the "FOOTPRINTS" documentary film and subsequent lecture to be held on Sunday, October 7, 2007, at 7:00 pm. in the Library and Archives Canada building, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Canada, does not benefit Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel. In addition, no Canadian tax receipts will be issued.

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Election 2007: meet the candidates

PCs remain united on faith-based school funding

By Barry Fishman

Patton, Ottawa West-Nepean; and Bruce Poulin, Ottawa-Vanier, attended the roundtable discussion.

Hearing Premier McGuinty – like herself, a graduate of the faith-based, provincially funded Catholic school system – use terms like “segregation” and “separation” when describing other faith-based schools, infuriates Ottawa Centre candidate Morissette.

“Despite what I see in the papers, it is fair to say 100 per cent of the caucus is solidly behind John’s [Tory] policy. We are not backing down. It is a matter of principle. It is the right thing for my kids, your kids and every other kid in the province,” she told the Federation’s Communication and Community Relations Committee during a round-table discussion on issues of concern for the Jewish community.

MacLeod, along with PC candidates Trina Morissette, Ottawa Centre; Richard Raymond, Ottawa South; Mike

Patton, Ottawa West-Nepean; and Bruce Poulin, Ottawa-Vanier, attended the roundtable discussion.

Hearing Premier McGuinty – like herself, a graduate of the faith-based, provincially funded Catholic school system – use terms like “segregation” and “separation” when describing other faith-based schools, infuriates Ottawa Centre candidate Morissette.

“I am extremely offended. I think I turned out to be a great person who is very accepting and understanding. To hear the premier of Ontario use those kinds of words is a slap in the face,” she says.

The Liberal spin on this is very divisive for our community, adds Ottawa West-Nepean candidate Patton. He senses people are beginning to understand that bringing other faith-based schools into the public system is the fair thing to do.



(From left to right) PC candidates Richard Raymond, Trina Morissette, Bruce Poulin with Jeff Polowin, candidate Mike Patton, Jonathan Freedman, Rubin Friedman, MPP Lisa MacLeod and Mitchell Bellman.

(OJB Photo: Michael Regenstreif)

“To be perfectly frank with you, this has been a very difficult issue for us. The issue is turning around at the doors now. People are beginning to understand that it will be an inclusive system, not a divisive system.

and are now seeing through the spin the Liberals have put on this,” he says.

In the predominantly francophone riding of Ottawa-Vanier, candidate Poulin finds, “Catholics understand that the argu-

ment Mr. McGuinty is using is not fair and can also be applied to them.”

The Conservatives promise to solve the crisis in long-term care in Ottawa. Under the plan they are proposing, there will be more beds

made available, as well as funding for a program that helps seniors stay in their homes longer.

“The number one issue, as I canvass, is long-term care homes,” says MacLeod. “People are being forced to place their parents in Kingston and in other homes right across the province. And sometimes the parents are being split up.

We have to work, not only with the private sector, but with the municipality,” she says, noting that Ottawa is short 850 long-term beds.

The amount of downloading by the province to the cities will be drastically curtailed by a PC government.

It is unfortunate the Municipal Provincial Service Delivery Review Report was not released in August so the parties could have campaigned on the downloading issue, says MacLeod. She promises – unlike the

(Continued on page 14)

Above: Lily Penso receiving gift in thanks for years of support
Left: Heisel – Mincoff family out enjoying the day
Below: A beautiful day for a wonderful event!

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Election 2007: meet the candidates Liberals promise quick action on long-term beds for Hillel Lodge

By Michael Regenstreif

Although discussion of funding for faith-based schools dominated much of the agenda when four Liberal candidates met with the Federation's Communications and Community Relations Committee in a round-table discussion of issues of concern to the community, the committee did receive strong support, and a commitment for quick action, on the issue of funding more long-term care beds at Hillel Lodge.

"We'll not reach a meeting of the minds," says Jim Watson about the funding issue. "My hope is, at the end of the day, some of the good things that we have done, not just for the Jewish community, but the broader community, will be recognized as positive contributions for all of our fellow citizens."

Watson, the minister of health promotion, is campaigning for re-election in Ottawa West-Nepean. He was joined at the table by Madeleine Meilleur, the minister of community and social services, who is up for re-election in Ottawa-Vanier, and by candidates Yasir A. Naqvi, running in Ottawa Centre, and Jai Aggarwal, running in Nepean-Carleton.

Watson says the Liberals have always been consistent in their belief that "public dollars should go into the public school system."

"Our definition of public," he adds, "includes the separate [Catholic] school board based on the guarantee



(From left to right): Liberal MPP Madeleine Meilleur, candidate Yasir A. Naqvi, Jeff Polowin, Jonathan Freedman, MPP Jim Watson and Mitchell Bellman.

(OJB Photo: Michael Regenstreif)

toed right of Catholic education in the British North America Act."

Watson is pressed on whether he thinks that funding only one faith's schools, to the exclusion of all others is fair, Watson says, "I do think [the current system] is fair."

Watson is the only Canadian province that funds only one faith-based school system and excludes all others.

Watson also took the opportunity to attack the Conservatives for what he says was the vagueness of their proposal to fund faith-based schools.

"I would have assumed that after a couple of years [under John Tory's leadership], it would have been thought out above and beyond 'we're going to have a commission to study it

under the auspices of Bill Davis,'" he says.

When asked if the door was open to further discussion on the issue should the Liberals win re-election, Watson says a Liberal government would spend the next four years enacting the current party platform. "Beyond that, who knows?"

Naqvi, though, indicated the door would be open to further discussion.

"Whether or not the Liberals win, we have to sit down and talk," he says. "We have to understand your point of view, and we need to articulate our point of view to you again as we

come to some sort of understanding and develop future policy." Naqvi adds that public consultation and dialogue were a starting point for the evolution of future policy.

Meilleur also called for future dialogue on the issue.

"I think we need to re-open the dialogue for those who think they've been offended by the position our government took. We need to talk because I don't think there was any intention to hurt anyone," she says.

Other issues discussed at the meeting generated less controversy.

(Continued on page 14)

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R'Fuah Shlema to:

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Norma and Phil Lazear Best wishes for a happy 50th wedding anniversary with all our love by Dorothy and Maurie Karp.

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R'Fuah Shlema to:

Enid Gould Wishing you a full and speedy

recovery and all the best for a happy and healthy New Year to you and yours by Kayla and Alvin Mallay.

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Joel Kanigsberg Best wishes on your special birthday by Marcia and Irwin Pencer.

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Ghita Schneiderman by Shelley Rothman and Family.

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In Honour of:

Sylvia Posner On your 60th birthday, we wish you every happiness, continued great health and lots of laughter. We love you, Tzpi! You mean the world to us! by Mima Fania, Rachel, Howard, David and Josh Schachter.

Stephen and Debra Schneiderman Family Fund

In Memory of:

Ghita Schneiderman by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz; Lorraine and David Bloom; Jane and Dan Pearman; Murray Yudin; Elaine, Tod, Stephen and Brian Rich; Carol and Laurie Pascoe; Maura, Harvey, Lorne and Erin Cooperberg; Barbara and Alan Goldrosen; Janice Charbonneau; Sharon and Paul Finn; Bonnie and Richard Dobson; Heather and Mark Evenchick; Sandra and Sam, Lynne and Philip Zunder; Evelyn and Lou Eisenberg; Susan Elias; and Anna and Sam Wex.

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Roslyn & Myles Taller Family Endowment Fund

In Honour of:

Rob Capelle Wishing you a happy 50th birthday and a very happy and healthy New Year to you and your family. Enjoy many more years to celebrate happy times by Roz and Myles Taller.

(Continued on page 14)

PCs: Ottawa does not receive 'fair share' of funding

(Continued from page 11)
Liberal plan to release the report six months into their new mandate - the Conservatives say they will release the report within four weeks so they can begin to fix the financial imbalances.

According to Patton, Ottawa does not receive its fair share from the provincial government which is one of the reasons why the former chief of staff in the mayor's office decided to run.

"The gas tax is a perfect example. Last year, Toronto

received \$90 per household while Ottawa only received \$20 per household," he says.

And why, Ottawa South Conservative candidate Richard Raymond asks, does Toronto get 75 per cent of their new transit funded while Ottawa is only offered 30 per cent?

"It is amazingly out of balance; totally, completely, out of whack," he says.

To help people feel more secure, they say, the drug problem in Ottawa must be addressed.

"So many crimes are

drug related. How it is possible that we do not have a drug treatment centre in Ottawa is beyond my understanding," says Patton.

"To get any help, you have to go to Thunder Bay,"

says Morissette. "And that is just unacceptable. We need a drug and treatment centre here, now."

In Vanier, parents have to go with a bio-hazard box to pick up the needles before

their children can go to the parks, says Poutin.

One solution, he says, is to do what other provinces have done: have fire and building code inspectors visit crack cocaine houses to

shut them down for code violations.

The PC plan also includes hiring more front-line police officers and making sure people are not let out of jail too early.

Liberals: security important issue

(Continued from page 12)

The Liberal candidates all expressed their support for funding of new long-term beds Hillel Lodge. A proposal from Hillel Lodge to open up immediate space for 21 new long-term beds

was recently turned down.

"We need to invest in long-term care," says Meilleur. "We've just announced 96 new beds at St. Pat's, but we need more."

Watson says he's visited the roughed-out space at Hillel Lodge and is optimistic one of two things will happen.

"Either there'll be some collaboration with St. Pat's in terms of beds, or we will be successful in putting Hillel at the top of the list [for new allocations]."

Watson says he'd like to have the government act on the Hillel Lodge space for long-term beds within the first six months of a new Liberal mandate.

Addressing the issue of provincial services that have been downloaded to municipalities, Meilleur and Watson point out that much of the downloading has already been reversed with

responsibilities for many services being returned to the province. Both point to the uploading of the Ontario Disability Support Program as an example of a service that has been returned to the province freeing up millions for the city's coffers.

Turning to the issue of security at community installations, Meilleur says security is important and

points out that the province recently provided funding for 100 new police officers in Ottawa. And while the

province has not developed a plan to support specific communities in their security needs, "it's something we can dialogue on," she says.

Watson also points out that \$450,000 was recently granted to the City of Ottawa to provide training for police in the areas of hate crimes and extremism.

"All three levels of government have to work together [on security issues] to create programs that ensure that all communities are protected," adds Naqvi.

**An unveiling
in memory of
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Family and friends are welcome to attend.**



(Continued from page 13)

Shann and Ian Congratulations and best wishes on your engagement. We are very happy for you both and are looking forward to seeing you soon by Roz and Myles Taller.

Shirley and Norman Levitt Mazal Tov and all the very best wishes on Shann and Ian's engagement. Thank you for everything by Roz and Myles Taller.

Dora Litwack So glad that you are home and doing well! All the best to you and Sam for a happy and healthy New Year by Roz and Myles Taller.

Roz Taller Wishing you the very best of health. Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year to you and your family by Rhoda and Eddie Weinberg; and Gloria and Barry Trainoff.

**Anna and Samuel Wex Family Fund
In Honour of:**

Brenda and Howie Bloomberg Mazal Tov and best wishes on the birth of your granddaughter by Anna and Sam Wex.

**Carole and Norman Zagerman
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In Honour of:

Malca Polowin All our best wishes for a very happy special birthday by Carole and Norman Zagerman and Andrea Arnon.

Carole and Norman Zagerman Wishing you and yours a very happy and healthy New Year by Shirley and Al Cohen.

R'Fush Shlema:
Enid Gould by Carole and Norman Zagerman.

IN MEMORY OF:

Bill Adler by Zahava and Barry Farber and Family.

Maurice Ben-Kalifa by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

Hona Gal by Zahava and Barry Farber and Family.

Thea Ginsburg by Susan Elias.

Miriam Gordon by Barry, Ethlyn and Sarah Agulnik.

Sol Kronick by Sylvia Monson.
David Moskow by Roz and Stan Labow.
Sofia Nayvelt by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

Fay Shuster by Carolyn Weiss.
Helen Shusterman by Elaine Haupman.
Max Yegendorf by Gerry Levitz, Ginsberg Gluzman Fage & Levitz, LLP.

IN HONOUR OF:

Cantor Shneur and Tracey Bellak Mazal Tov and best wishes on the occasion of your marriage by the Residents, Board and Staff of Hillel Lodge.

Murray Citron Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year by Ingrid and Gerry Levitz.

Jennie and Paul Claman and Family All our best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Shana Tova by Mara and Isaac Muzikansky.

Zahava and Barry Farber Best wishes for a happy New Year by Cila Farber.

Bar and Len Farber Best wishes for a happy New Year by Cila Farber.

Malka and Simhu Feig Best wishes for a happy New Year by Cila Farber.

Mary and Izzy Farber Best wishes for a happy New Year by Cila Farber.

Libby and Stan Katz Best wishes for a happy New Year by Cila Farber.

Joyce and Milton Kimmel Mazal Tov on your 45th wedding anniversary and many more happy and healthy years together by Shirley and Akiva Kriger.

Norma and Phil Lazear Mazal Tov on your 50th wedding anniversary and many more happy and healthy years together by Shirley and Akiva Kriger, and Rochelle and Brian Pearl.

Corrine and Sheldon Taylor with appreciation and best wishes for a happy new year by Zahava and Barry Farber and Family.

Esther and Alan Williams All our best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Shana Tova by Mara and Isaac Muzikansky.

R'Fush Shlema:
Enid Gould by Beverly Friedman.

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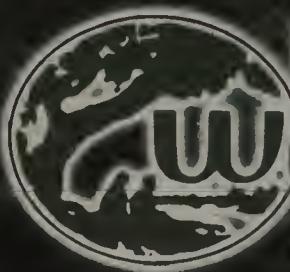
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Making new memories in Jewish New York

By Russ Conson

"Even if you are Catholic, if you live in New York, you're Jewish. If you live in Butte, Montana, you are going to be a goy even if you are Jewish."

—Lenny Bruce

While today's New York City may be more about hedge fund managers and high end chain stores than shul-like neighbourhoods and kosher delis, it still retains a distinctly Jewish flavour. Montreal, Toronto and our own capital city all have their own particular Jewish charms, but there is nowhere else in North America where you can go and be engulfed by so much Jewish culture.

New York City is a place where you can walk into an elevator and find a young, ultra-Orthodox couple soothing their baby in Yiddish. It is a city where the hot dogs are often from Empire Kosher or Hebrew National, even when the hot dog cart is in Chinatown. In New York, many people know when the Jewish holidays fall, that a *tuchus* is a butt and that lox is not the same as smoked salmon.

On my first of three days in New York in mid-August, I made my way down to Battery Park City, home of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. Not to be confused with the ritzy and more art-centric Jewish Museum uptown, this museum presents Jewish history, before, during and after the Holocaust, arranged by floor.

"The first floor is depressing, the second even more so," we were told by the eye-patch-wearing man (obviously going for the Moshe Dayan look) at the reception desk. "Then, when you can't take any more depression, we have an exhibit on Jews on vacation on the third floor. Enjoy your visit."

The museum sits in the far left corner of Lower Manhattan, with stunning views of the New York harbour and the Statue of Liberty. But its real charms are in its permanent collection. Among the artifacts is a Jewish flag in blue and white, flown in defiance of the Nuremberg Laws, which stated Jews could not fly the German flag; and a recreation of a wall in Kovno, Lithuania where one Jew, near death after a pogrom in 1941, wrote his last words in his own blood, "Yidn Nekamah (Jews Revenge)." Both are part of an exhibit dedicated to Jewish resistance.

The temporary exhibit on Jewish vacations did not disappoint with menus, postcards and memorabilia from familiar destinations, including a matchbook from Kutsher's Resort in the Catskills and a sign from the Copacabana Club in Miami Beach.



The Eldridge Street Synagogue, a National Historic Landmark

The museum even has what I was told is "the best glatt kosher cafe in Battery Park." Actually the only kosher cafe in that area, it had a variety of sandwiches and drinks to please most palates. There is also a theatre, the Edmond J. Safra Hall, named for the Jewish Lebanese-Brazilian businessman, which holds Jewish book discussions and performances throughout the year.

New York is the city of my parents, my parents' parents and their grandparents, most of whom originally settled on the Lower East Side of Manhattan after arriving from Europe. Many years removed from its days as a Jewish enclave for tenement-dwelling Eastern European, Russian and German Jews, it is now home to trendy boutiques and, oy, a Whole Foods Market. Yet, it is still a place of great significance for many American Jews. Beneath the layers added by more recent immigrants, a Jewish heart still beats in the Lower East Side, if you know where to look.

But the heart of the show is the three Jewish comedians and, by her own admission, the "token goy" who presented mostly contemporary, sometimes raunchy, female-centred jokes. "What do you get when you cross a Jewish American princess with a computer? A computer that never goes down," was typical of their schtick. The show was uneven, but for fans of Jewish humour, it was a delight.

The JAP show takes place at the Actor's Temple, also known as Congregation Ezrath Israel, a working synagogue in the heart of New

walking along Manhattan's eastern edge, past Battery Park, South Street Seaport and the Brooklyn Bridge, we headed north on Eldridge Street, where we were surrounded by the sights and sounds of Chinatown, including myriad noodle shops and a street market where the bartering is entirely in Chinese.

Walking up Eldridge, between Canal and Division Streets, I spotted the Eldridge Street Synagogue, a National Historic Landmark and the first major synagogue structure erected by Eastern European Jews in the Lower East Side. Built in a mixture of Moorish and Gothic elements, it is a sight to behold. Although the neighbourhood has changed (cow's foot soup, anyone?), the shul's claim to fame is that it has never missed a Shabbat service since first opening in 1887. While the main sanctuary is being renovated, services take place downstairs in the old rabbi's quarters.

Nothing represents Jewish New York to me more than the small, one-of-a-kind, family-run stores on the Lower East Side. Despite the intrusion of boutiques and chain stores, some still dot the neighbourhood. Among them are stores selling undergarments, luggage and leather accessories, just as they have for most of the last century. Other Jewish-owned stores sell edible goods such as smoked fish (Russ & Daughters), kosher wine (Schapiro's Wine) and even matzah (Streit's Matzo Factory). As it was my last day in New York and I was hungry, these types of stores held greater appeal.

I sampled the knishes at the legendary Yonah Schimmel's Knishery on Houston Street, where a sign proclaims "you don't have to be Jewish to eat a knish." Indeed, you don't, as an Asian couple holding a Chinese guidebook attested when we walked in. The store sells both savoury knishes, such as potato and kasha, and sweet knishes like strawberry-cheese and blueberry-cheese. Both



At Yonah Schimmel's Knishery the sign says it all!

kinds are filled with old-world flavour. (Note to the Knish boys: you have never had a knish until you have been to Yonah Schimmel's.)

A few minutes' walk away on Orchard Street is Guss' Pickles of "Crossing Delaney" fame. Their pickles are still kosher and still sold from barrels on the sidewalk. There is simply no equivalent in Canada (that I know of). As close to heaven as one can get with a cucumber, the pickles are available in sour, three-quarter sour and half sour, and are sold inside barrels of hot peppers, sour tomatoes and other related products.

"What should we get?" a couple of youngish mid-western women within earshot wondered.

"You can't go wrong with the half sour," I said. And they didn't.

Eating such old school Ashkenazi treats was fulfilling to both the soul and stomach, but my best experience on the Lower East Side came from wandering into Global International Menswear on Orchard Street, between Grand and Hester, one of a number of old school clothing stores in the area. Not to be confused with nearby stores selling vintage couture dresses, these stores sell things like "pocket books" and, for men, business suits.

"We've been in business for 48 years and I am semi-retired now; I like to come in on Sundays and help out," Bob the salesman said as he led me up to the second floor show room. "This would cost \$1,200 at Barney's; I can do it for \$300," he said, picking up a navy blue, hand-stitched, imported Italian suit.

A dubious claim, perhaps, but the man obviously knew suits. He handed my wife two bottles of water ("Take them, it's hot outside") as I headed back downstairs to be fitted.

The downstairs of the store was occupied by an Orthodox father and son duo, the Glocks, who own the store. After finding out where I was from ("Oh, I have family in Montreal!"), what I did for a living ("Oh, my son is a municipal lawyer") and how much I paid for my downtown hotel ("Mazal tov, that is a great price!"), the son, Sam, arranged for my new suit to be tailored and shipped to Canada. Even with the shipping costs, the suit was a bargain; fitting for a store in what used to be known as Manhattan's "Bargain District."

"That was really fun," my wife said as we left the store. "It made me want to be Jewish."

In New York, it's as if everyone is.

Jewish teen youngest ever JTC delegate

By Jason Sherriff

Millions of children in developing countries suffer in poverty. Andrée Rose aims to do her part in helping them.

Rosen, 15, is one of 25 Canadian youth who travelled to Vietnam as Junior Team Canada (JTC) delegates to learn about its economy, its needs and how to encourage its development. The trip, from August 14 to 31, was an "intense" experience says Rosen, who lives in Cantley, Quebec.

Administered by Global Vision, a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping Canadians from the age of 16 to 25 become leaders, JTC organizes missions to foreign countries every year. As the youngest person to ever participate in the program, Rosen says she feels fortunate to have been selected from 1,200 applicants. "At the same time I worked very hard and I think I deserved the spot."

An Ottawa Modern Jewish School graduate and multiple academic award winner, Rosen participates in a number of extra curricular activities that help people. She volunteers at Saint-Vincent Hospital, coaches and manages a Cantley soccer team and is a member of charity group Solidarité Sud-Haiti.

The trip, she says, made her feel more comfortable about travelling, and will undoubtedly open the door to more opportunities to help

developing countries and the less fortunate.

The trip took the JTC delegates to Vietnam, Singapore and Malaysia, allowing Rosen to see various stages of developing countries, and left her wanting to do more.

"It confirmed I want to do development work in the future, because it wasn't a culture shock for me," she says, even though she admits before this trip she had never done much travelling. "I would walk the streets and talk to people right away. It felt like home, I got used to it immediately."

Rosen first heard about the JTC program from a friend. After attending a Global Leader Centre seminar, she applied to visit Vietnam by sending in a video describing herself and her desire to aid developing countries.

Her interest in developing countries began when she was young. She recalls seeing a television commercial about sponsoring impoverished children in Africa.

"I believed everything they said. I worked really hard because I wanted to sponsor a kid," says Rosen. "I think because of that I've always wanted to go to Africa and work in the development field."

Rosen has seen the power and necessity of charity through her work with Solidarité Sud-Haiti, a non-governmental organization dedicated to providing funding for development projects in



Rosen says she cherishes the friendships she made in Vietnam.

Haiti. "We do some pretty amazing stuff," she says.

"We built a well and we're building a lot of schools and classrooms. We built this one centre, Les Amis. It has games and computers for these kids to get

them off the street."

The daughter of Tree Canada President Michael Rosen and Carole Chevrefils, Rosen now has memories to last a lifetime says Michael. "We're kind of jealous she gets to do all this and see all this at such a young age."

She is looking forward to travelling more often in the future.

"I so want to go to Israel for birthright. It sounds really cool," says Rosen, who also isn't afraid of visiting "more dangerous places."

Rosen applied for a trip

youth."

Chevrefils knows she will one day "lose her to a third world country," but is fully supportive of her daughter's decisions and her future career in international development.

"You'd like to have your babies closer to home," she says. "[but] there's something in her to just want to help people in whatever way she can."

Rosen says she wants "everybody to have the same opportunities" as she does. "I feel it's one of my responsibilities as someone who has all [those opportunities] to try to be able to give that to someone else."

"In Canada, we're so fortunate. I think it's one of our responsibilities to help other countries. And this is a stepping-stone. This is going to help me for my future."

developing countries, and wants to visit Africa to gain more knowledge about its various countries.

"I might be applying [to be] an exchange student too. I'm taking advantage of my



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Rosen (center) learns about the Malaysian economy with fellow students.

Jews-by-choice find varying degrees of acceptance

By Nicola Hamer

In some ways, it is difficult to discern how the broader Jewish community views those who have converted to Judaism. Of course, there is the 'official' line, but finding out what people really think can be more difficult.

It seems the best way to find that out is to ask Jews-by-choice themselves how they feel they have been welcomed to their chosen religion.

Both the Torah and Talmud instruct that once someone has converted, they are as Jewish as any other, to the point that their conversions are considered irrelevant and not to be referred to. They are not 'converts,' but merely 'Jews.' But Jewish experiences in the Diaspora before the last few decades have made Jews very suspicious of those wanting to join them; and there is some evidence the suspicion hasn't completely disappeared.

It doesn't help that Judaism is more than just a religion, but a culture, even an ethnicity. Some – both those converting and those born Jewish – question the possibility of successfully joining someone else's culture.

Add to that the controversy over who does the conversion. The Orthodox movement does not accept conversions performed by those of



The Torah and Talmud tell us converts are as Jewish as those born Jewish.

(SOURCE: Wikipedia)

other movements, so the question of acceptance is of real concern.

Every Jew-by-choice interviewed for this article remembers facing negative comments about those who have converted. Ironically, these almost always came from people who did not realize that they were speaking to a convert. Many Jews-by-choice find it easy to dismiss such remarks and the people who make them.

Michael Walsh, a Jew-by-choice whose volunteer work in development in the Jewish community brings him into contact with a wide variety of people, says he has always felt completely welcomed and accepted. He has heard the occasional disparaging

remark, he admits, but says, "The key is to not be sensitive to stupid comments. They don't represent the wider community."

He also points out: "It is a glass-half-full kind of thing. You will find what you are looking for." He explains that he believes those who expect acceptance are more likely to find it.

Another Jew-by-choice, Wayne Moore, said something similar. He feels you get out of life what you put in and that someone who converts with sincerity, and immerses themselves in the community, will be fully welcomed.

About the occasional unpleasant comment, Moore says, "No one else's reactions really matter. I did this for

myself. I have a supportive wife and extended family and they are the ones who matter." That being said, he feels completely accepted by the Ottawa Jewish community. "I have always found it very warm and welcoming."

While Walsh and Moore haven't found that their decisions to convert for their Jewish families has made their acceptance any more complicated, Christine Kessler admits she sometimes feels judged by those who think she converted to marry her husband, Gary, a born-Jew. She finds this a bit frustrating, especially as she had decided to convert whether or not she married Gary.

The mere fact that Kessler, and some others who convert

before marriage, feel the need to point out that they would have ended up Jewish anyway, demonstrates there is still some stigma around converting 'just to get married.'

Another Jew-by-choice, who we'll call "Sara" because she declined to be named for this article, describes her deep frustration and hurt at being asked a number of times if she'd stay Jewish should her husband leave her or die.

"It shows they don't consider me really Jewish," she said, "Like I'm just playing at it for my husband."

Sara was not the only convert who was not willing to be named. Their opinion was that while they weren't ashamed of it, and would tell people if they asked, it just isn't anyone's business and they see no reason to advertise their conversion.

Sara says the worst comments are the unintentional ones, such as when she told a good friend a Jewish joke.

"It was self-deprecating, as they tend to be, the sort that might be considered anti-Semitic if someone Jewish wasn't saying it. He said that it made him uncomfortable to hear it from me since I hadn't always been Jewish. It made me realize that though I sometimes forget I haven't been born Jewish, no one else does. And that really hurt."

It is possible that those who convert for faith alone, rather than to marry someone Jewish, manage to avoid some of these feelings of being judged. David Maleki is a good example. He says he has never felt any negative judgment about having con-

verted, although he does admit, that upon finding out he did it just on his own, people do tend to ask, "What, are you nuts?"

"They are always joking, though," he adds. "I do think that not converting for marriage adds to the perception of my sincerity, since I came to it completely on my own. And that, of course, is not a fair judgment about people who convert for marriage."

Interestingly, the most obvious source of potential rejection – converting under a non-Orthodox rabbi – had little effect on the non-Orthodox Jews-by-choice who were interviewed for this article. While some kept within their own smaller Reform community, others are fully involved in the wider community and have found the rabbis of Ottawa to be completely welcoming.

While Orthodox rabbis do not consider these Jews-by-choice to be Jewish according to halacha (Jewish law), and would not perform a marriage or bris for them, no one interviewed for this article said they have ever been treated as anything less than a full member of the community outside of specifically halachic situations.

Clearly, acceptance into the Jewish community is an issue fraught with emotion for many people who have converted. But despite the fact that prejudices and problems still do exist for those who have chosen to be Jewish, everyone interviewed has found Ottawa to be a welcoming and largely non-judgmental Jewish community.

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Footprints: opportunity to learn about the forgotten Jewish refugees from Arab and other Muslim lands

By Brandon Marlon

"Doesn't anyone care about us at all?"

The question, blunt and to the point, has been put to us, the Jewish family the world over. Our response is long overdue.

For more than half a century, the Mizrahi community - Jews from Arab and other Muslim countries - has been deprived of much-deserved attention concerning its historical mass exodus from North Africa and the Middle East. Between the 1940s and 1970s, nearly one million Jews were forced from their homes or fled anti-Semitic persecution in lands that were, in many cases, home to Jews for thousands of years.

While most of these refugees left for Israel, others went to Europe and North America, including many who arrived in Montreal. The story of these refugees and acknowledgment of their plight has languished for decades in oblivion. To this day, in discussions of the Middle East conflict, it is invariably assumed that the "refugees" only refers to Palestinians. But that is only half the story and it's high time this injustice was corrected.

Meanwhile, for almost seven years, the Israeli town of Sderot has been plagued by Kassam rockets fired from Gaza on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis. To date, 12 Israelis have been killed by the Kassam attacks. Traumatized and overstressed, Sderot residents are regularly found at their mayor's office or outside the

Knesset for the prime minister to hear, weeping and wondering aloud if anyone cares; wondering, too, if they have been forgotten by their government and by Jews everywhere. Sderot's 24,000 shell-shocked inhabitants are on the front line in the war against Palestinian terrorism and the rain in Sderot is made of rusting metal.

On Sunday, October 7, with the presentation of *Footprints: The 20th Century Jewish Exodus from Moslem Lands*, the Ottawa Jewish community has a unique opportunity to learn more about the forgotten Jewish refugees and raise money to help the citizens of Sderot.

Footprints is a remarkable program featuring guest lecturer David Dabscheck of the New York-based David Pro-

ject, a centre for Jewish leadership that promotes "a fair and honest understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict," and the Ottawa premiere of *Forgotten Refugees*, a documentary film that "explores the history and destruction of Middle Eastern Jewish communities," some of which had existed for over 2,500 years. The event will conclude with a Sephardic-themed kosher reception.

The event is sponsored by birthright israel Foundation and the David Project, in partnership with B'nai Brith Canada, and intends to promote recognition of the Jewish refugees while simultaneously fundraising for the community of Sderot. All proceeds will be channelled through Magen David Adom and NATAL, the Israeli tra-

ma centre for victims of terrorism and war.

The event urges unity across all Jewish affiliations, denominations, congregations, organizations and geographic locations within the city. The Christian Zionist community and anyone generally interested in educating themselves about Israel and supporting Sderot are also welcome.

Footprints: The 20th Century Jewish Exodus from Moslem Lands takes place Sunday, October 7, 2007, 7:00 pm, at Library and Archives Canada. General admission is \$20; \$10 for students or birthright israel alumni.

For tickets or more information, contact Brandon Marlon at 613-737-5006 or footprints.specialevent@gmail.com.



Bruce Poulin
Ottawa-Vanier

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Wishing good health and much success in future endeavours to Rabbi and Mrs. Shmulie Zilber by Lily and Jerry Penso

Wishing Eileen Dubrovsky a nice day by Lois and Jerry Nudelman

With best wishes to Mr. Moise Kolbasnik on his retirement by Evelyn and Norm Potechin

In observance of the yahrzeit of a beloved mother, Anna Lazear Saslove by Sonia and Sheldon Shaffer

In observance of the yahrzeit of our dear mother, Florence Weisz by Larry Weisz and Eleanor Mintz

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT ROSLYN WOLLOCK AT 613-798-9818 EXT. 254 OR RWOLLOCK@JCCOTTAWA.COM

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DRAWING FOR BEGINNERS

October 10 - November 28 • 8 weeks
Wednesday 10:00 pm - 3:00 pm
\$80M / \$95NM • Instructor: Nicole Lavoie

NEW! HARDANGER CHALLAH COVER

October 15 - December 3 • 8 weeks
Monday 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
\$120M / \$140NM • Instructor: Heidi Pivnick

NEW! FUNKY KNIT SOCKS

October 9 - November 27 • 8 weeks
Tuesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$120M / \$140NM • Instructor: Heidi Pivnick

NEW! TRADITIONAL RUG HOOKING

October 10 - November 28 • 8 weeks
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$120M / \$140NM • Instructor: Heidi Pivnick

BASIC DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

October 16 - December 4 • 8 weeks
Tuesday 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
\$85M / \$100NM • Instructor: Jim Lamont

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 2

Oct. 18 - Nov. 8 • 4 weeks • Thursday
\$50M / \$65NM • Instructor: Jim Lamont

MUSIC

SHIRA OTTAWA CHOIR

OCTOBER - MAY
Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm • \$165M / \$190NM

DRUMMING - TRADITIONAL RHYTHMS OF AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

November 7, 14, 21, 28
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$80M / \$95NM • Instructor: Leo Brookes

MUSIC OF ISRAEL - FROM PRE-STATE TO PRESENT

October 15 - November 26
Monday 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
\$40M / \$50NM • Instructor: Shirley Steinberg

LANGUAGES

SPANISH - LEVEL 1

October 11 - November 29 • 8 weeks
Thursday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$95M / \$110NM • Instructor: Miguel Perez

SPANISH ADVANCED

October 11 - November 29 • 8 weeks
Thursday 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
\$95M / \$110NM • Instructor: Miguel Perez

SPECIAL INTEREST

HOT TOPIC CURRENT AFFAIRS WITH PROFESSOR GERRY CAMMY

October 15 - December 3 • 8 weeks
Monday 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$60M / \$75NM • Code: ACL1001

HELPING OURSELVES MUSSAR - LIVING WITH JEWISH VIRTUES

October 24 - November 14 • 4 weeks •
Wednesday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
\$20M / \$30NM • Instructor: Lauren Shaps

NEW! - STAINED GLASS MOSAIC - DAY WORKSHOP

Using unlimited colours of lead free stained glass you will create your own table or mirror. The table is approximately 18' in height with a surface of approx 13 x 13 and the mirror template is approximately 10 x 24. The supply fees (paid to the instructor) are \$68.40 for the table and \$57 for the mirror and include glass, grout, glue, gloves, pistol grip glass cutter and either the table or mirror template. No prior experience necessary.

Sunday October 14
9:30 am - 3:30 pm (one hour lunch break included)
\$30M / \$45NM • Instructor: Cindy Laneville

NOTE THAT PRE-REGISTRATION BY OCTOBER 5TH IS MANDATORY. PLEASE CONTACT ROSLYN WOLLOCK AT 613-798-9818 EXT. 254.

DANCE

RED HOT BALLROOM

October 11 - December 13 • 10 weeks
Thursday 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
\$180M / \$160NM • Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod

SWING DANCE

October 11 - November 29 • 8 weeks • Thursday 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm
\$78M / \$96NM per couple • Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod

SOCIAL LINE DANCING

October 12 - November 30 • 8 weeks • Friday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
\$45M / \$50NM • Instructor: Yvonne MacLeod

SUNDAY, OCT. 21ST 10:30 AM BAGEL BRUNCH WITH PROFESSOR REBECCA MARGOLIS

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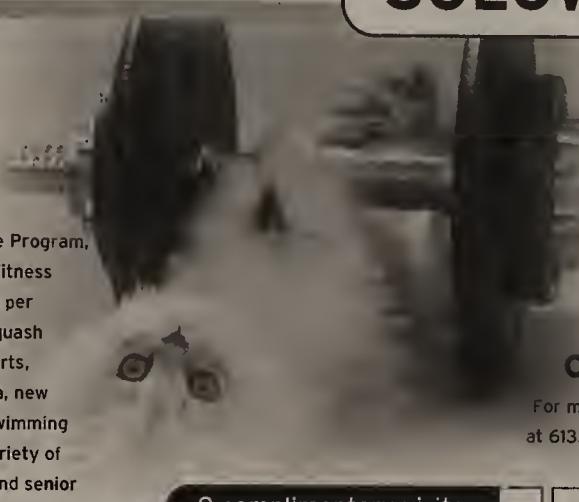


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SOLOWAY JCC

Inspiring Jewish journeys



The SJCC in conjunction with The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School offer the following Jewish education graduate courses to the community this fall:

THE HISTORY OF THE SIDDUR (PRAYER BOOK)

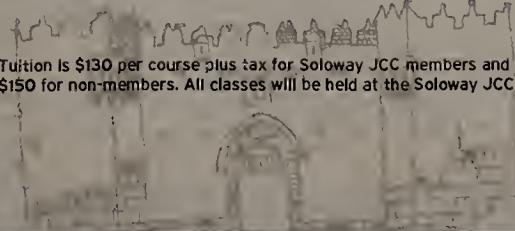
10 one-hour classes • Instructor: Rabbi Eli Braun
Thursday, October 11-December 13 • 11:00am-12:00pm

JEWISH LIFE UNDER THE ROMANS FROM POMPEY TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

10 ninety minute classes • Instructor: Rubin Friedman
Wednesday, October 10-December 12 • 10:00-11:30am

THE FIVE MEGILLOT

6 ninety minute classes • Instructor: Ian Kagedan
Monday, October 15-November 19 • 7:30-9:00pm



Tuition is \$130 per course plus tax for Soloway JCC members and \$150 for non-members. All classes will be held at the Soloway JCC.

For more information or to register, contact Maxine Miska, Director of Programming at 613-798-9818 ext. 263.

SOLOWAY JCC

inspiring Jewish journeys



LECTURE SERIES WITH DR. HENRI HABIB

Dynamics of Saudi Politics and the Future of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East

Middle East expert and Professor Emeritus in the department of Political Science at Concordia University Dr. Henri Habib returns to the Soloway JCC for three interesting and insightful lectures.

Wednesday Oct. 17 • Mondays Oct. 22 and 29 at 7:30 pm
Series lectures: \$15M / \$18NM
Individual lectures: \$7M / \$9NM

Tickets available at the Front Desk of the Soloway JCC.

For more information please contact Penni Namer, at 613-798-9818 ext. 243 or pnamer@jccottawa.com

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Volunteer Corner is courtesy of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. All beneficiary agencies are invited to list their volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer Opportunities

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

A minute, a call, a visit ... You make the difference

- Do you have one hour a week to visit a senior who is visually impaired? She seeks a volunteer to read her mail to her weekly, Monday mornings.

• Kosher Meals on Wheels is seeking additional drivers in response to increased demands on this program. Drivers are needed Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, once a month or once a week whatever works for you.

• Isolated senior: We are currently seeking a friendly visitor for a senior living approximately 45 minutes East of Ottawa. This senior would greatly benefit from a regularly scheduled visit.

• Do you speak Yiddish or French? A senior in the Craig Henry area is seeking a volunteer who speaks French and Yiddish to go out for a coffee or play Gin Rummy or simply have a conversation.

• Drivers needed: Imagine needing to get to a doctor's appointment but having no way of getting there. This program offers seniors transportation to and from medical appointments. If you are available to assist in transporting seniors to and from their homes to attend medical appointments, your help is needed.

• Making connections with the Gutten Tog Program: Many of our seniors are living in long-term care facilities. They would benefit from a visit; once a week, every other week or once a month.

• Russian-speaking seniors seek English language skills: Previous teaching experience not required. Seniors are looking to improve their conversational English. A couple of hours a week is all that is needed. These seniors are located in the Kanata and Lincoln Fields areas of the city.

• Participation at committee level needed: the Shalom Bayit Program (a program aimed at reducing violence against Jewish Women) is seeking committee members. Interested? Please contact Sarah Caspi at 613-722-2225 ext. 246.

Deborah is waiting to hear from you
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THE BESS AND MOE GREENBERG FAMILY HILLEL LODGE

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- B-i-n-g-o! If this is one of your favourite words, come play at the Lodge on Monday nights or Friday afternoons and have fun.

- Sing! Birthday parties, Kindermusik, happy hours all need enthusiastic voices. Even if you don't sing opera, come.

- Talk, debate or just listen! Got a favourite topic you'd like wise input on? Come visit a resident and make a new friend.

- Do you Kaluki? More players are needed for this challenging game which meets on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons. If you play gin rummy, then you can kaluki!

- Shopping anyone? Go shopping with residents going to a mall.

- Practice, practice! Give a preview of a presentation or recital to our residents.

- Special mitzvah anyone? Bring a resident to Shabbos services and enjoy the Oneg with friends.

- Student Special. Add to your community hours by helping our residents.

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The professor with the answers: OTC to host world-renowned lecturer

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The Shabbaton takes place the weekend of October 26-27 at OTC, 3023 Cedarview Road in Barrhaven.

The program is as follows.

Friday night, October 26 – service, 6:00 pm; dinner, 6:45 pm; topic, "Destiny vs. Free Choice: Is Human Life Pre-Determined?"

Saturday, October 27 – Chassidic Philosophy, 9:00 am; Shabbat services, 10:00 am; lunch, 12:15 pm; topic: "Unity in Diversity: The Chassidic Approach to Jewish Unity."

Saturday night, October 27, 2007, 8:00 pm; topic: "Faith and Suffering: Where is God when it hurts?"

The cost for Friday night is \$25 adult, \$10 child. The lunch program is free and the Saturday night lecture is \$10 per person. A children's program will be available during prayers and lectures.

For more information and to RSVP by Wednesday, October 24, please call OTC at 613-823-0866 or visit www.OttawaTorahCenter.com.



Rabbi Dr. Jacob
Immanuel Schochet

gift for debating the "greatest" of minds.

Rabbi Schochet has served as professor of philosophy at Humber College, Toronto, for 25 years and taught bio-ethics at the school of medicine, University of Toronto. As well, he is professor of Jewish law and mysticism at Maimonides College.

In addition, he is currently the rabbi

Temple Israel offers outreach courses

Temple Israel's Outreach Committee has announced two courses for this fall's session. Both 11-week courses begin Tuesday, October 9.

Introduction to Prayers in Hebrew (Part One) introduces the letters and vowels of the Hebrew alphabet with the goals of understanding the workings of the Hebrew language, developing an ability to read prayer book Hebrew and to feeling more comfortable at Temple services. No prior knowledge of Hebrew is necessary. Fees will depend on the number of participants and will include a required book.

In the other course, Jewish Information Topics, participants will learn about various Jewish topics including Jewish history, holidays and life cycle events. Temple Israel is pleased to provide this

course as a gift to the community. Participants are only asked to pay a small administrative fee plus the cost of any books.

Both classes are prerequisites for people considering conversion to Judaism.

Beginning in January, Temple Israel will offer two courses on Monday evenings. Introduction to Prayers in Hebrew (Part Two) will continue to improve one's ability to read prayer-book Hebrew. Unless

agreed to by the facilitator, all participants must have attended part one in the fall.

Jewish Belief System and Theology is specifically designed for people contemplating conversion to Judaism. Rabbi Steve Oarten will cover these topics in considerable detail with the goal of preparing participants to make their decision on conversion.

For further information, please contact Temple Israel's Outreach Co-chairs,

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Readers and advertisers are advised the next edition

of the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

will be published on Monday, October 22, 2007.

The deadline date is Wednesday, October 3, 2007.

That's funny, you look like a rabbi!

When I was little and a fairly good student at afternoon school in Toronto, my parents impressed two things upon me. First, it was important to learn about our Jewish traditions and to know as much as possible about how to live a Jewish life. Second, I shouldn't get too carried away with such things and, *cholice*, become a rabbi.

That may seem like a strange attitude for Jewish parents to express. But it was, as far as I could tell, a very common attitude in the immigrant Yiddish circles I grew up in. Better I should be, in my parents' accented English, "a docteh, a lawyer, a dentist, a yentGInYeh," or at least, if all else failed, "a droggist."

Well I came close on one score. I married a lawyer and they got some indirect nachas.

But what is even more surprising to me nowadays is that, over the past two years, a number of people have taken me to be a rabbi.

How could this be? After all, I am not a rabbi and I never claim to be a rabbi. Yet, on several occasions, this is how some people have addressed me. Come to think of it, everyone of them has been a Christian.

This is how I figure it.

To them, I sound like a rabbi. I talk with confidence,



Humour me, please

Rubin Friedman

quote scripture and often sound as if I know what I am talking about. If you know something in our world or at least give the impression you do, this apparently means you have a qualification; therefore, I must be a rabbi.

Probably the other factor is context, the fact that I participate in interfaith dialogue, which seems to send the rabbi detection-meter needle much higher.

I often wear a kippah to these exercises just so people can identify me as coming from the Jewish side.

I think, "Otherwise, how will they be sure they have been talking to Jews?"

But the kippah makes me look more religious; therefore more likely a rabbi.

I am interested in spirit and the spiritual. I want to learn more about how others understand scripture, God, etc. This also gives me a rabbinic feel.

Finally, my name is Rubin. So, if people are not paying close attention, they might hear "rabbi" when I am introduced, especially in interfaith dialogues where they may be expecting to meet one.

All this is to say I have now been addressed as rabbi several times in the last few months, and also a few times in the past. It's not too bad, unless there are real rabbis in the room and then it's embarrassing. Rabbis Arnold Fine and Charles Popky laughed one night when the moderator of a panel welcomed "Rabbi Friedman" to the discussion. But I couldn't help feeling self-conscious about it, even after I corrected it.

After all, I haven't done much to complete my smicha. Actually, nothing at all.

So, here I am, a great disappointment. I'm not in the any of the professions my parents wanted me to pursue and a lot of people think I have the profession they wanted to me to avoid.

Here's my plan to correct this.

In the world to come, I swear to tell the truth if anyone there calls me "rabbi" because I am wearing a kippah.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF OTTAWA NEGEV DINNER

HONOURING

Jim Orban, Publisher of the Ottawa Citizen

"WHOM THE COMMUNITY DELIGHTETH TO HONOUR"

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Larry King, Host of CNN's Larry King Live

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RESERVE THIS DATE!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2007

THE OTTAWA CONGRESS CENTRE, 6:00 PM

For further information, call Margo at (613) 798-2411

**FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS: "THE RESIDENTIAL
VILLAGE FOR AUTISTIC YOUNG ADULTS" IN BE'ER SHEVA**



For more information on Keynote Speaker Larry King, please visit www.harrywalker.com



The Holocaust: *Through the Eyes of A Child*

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

9:30 am March of the Living panel and art therapy session, Sunday schools program, Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 5TH

9:30 am Lecture - *Looking at the Holocaust Through Family History*, St Paul's University, 223 Main St.

1:00 & 2:00 pm Lecture - Barbara Coloroso - a discussion on Bullying for teachers and students, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

7:00 pm Keynote Lecture and book signing - Barbara Coloroso *A Short Walk to Genocide*, Sir Robert Borden H.S Auditorium, 131 Greenbank Road. Tickets: \$5 students/\$8 adults. call (613) 798-4696 ext. 236

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

7:00 pm Interfaith panel - *Preserving the Memory to Save the World*, SHOUT Ottawa and Carleton University Ecumenical Chaplaincy, Carleton U, Paterson Hall Room 303. Email: shoutottawa@gmail.com

7:30 pm Louis Lemko talk book discussion - Amongst the millions of Jews swept away by Hitler and the few who escaped, the story of Chaim Melamed stands out. Chaim recounts his experience being hidden and his escape, not once but twice, to what would become a new and glorious life in Canada. Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Dr.

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

10:00 am Discussion with Rabbi Garten - Holocaust issues using original documents from Melton School, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Dr.

7:30 pm Talk - Jeff Peck on *Being Jewish in New Germany*, Carleton U, 1125 Colonel By Dr.

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10TH

7:00 pm Kristallnacht Candlelight Commemoration, Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11TH

2:00 pm Film - *Secret Lies*, Stories of Jewish children saved from the Holocaust by non-Jews through extraordinary acts of bravery and kindness. Greenberg Family Library Film Club, Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Pvt.

7:00 pm Talk - *Religious Perspectives of the Holocaust*, with Rabbi Finkelstein, Rabbi Blum and Rabbi Braun, Beth Shalom West, 15 Chariwell Ave.

For more information contact (613) 798-4696 ext. 255 or visit www.jewishottawa.com

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Samuel: from judge to prophet



Global Shtetl
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Saul Silverman

Every controversy that is for God's sake shall in the end be lasting (Heb. *sofa lehitkayem*), but [any controversy] that is not for God's sake shall in the end not be lasting. Which controversy was it that was for God's sake? This was the controversy of Hillel and Shammai. And which was not for God's sake? Such was the controversy of Korach and all his faction. — *Avot 5:17*

Historically, Samuel was the successor to Eli, the last of the Judges. Over the course of his long life, Kings – Saul, and then David – replaced Judges as the instrument for God's rule over Israel. Samuel starts as a Judge but develops as a Prophet.

The period from which Samuel emerged was one of exceptional turmoil. The Jews were still tribal and they were fighting for survival, particularly against the more powerful coastal people, the Philistines.

The Book of Judges (Shofrim) contains a damning condemnation of the actual behaviour of the people of Israel throughout the whole of this period. It says there was no King in Israel and every person did what was good in their own eyes.

This also can be interpreted as rejecting God's rule (theocracy through the Judges). Despite this willfulness, we are told God continued to protect Israel by bringing forward heroic individuals – Deborah, Gideon, Samson, etc. – at times of emergency.

In the course of Samuel's life, the desperate people asked for a human king to be their protector. Samuel is insulted by this demand. He is appalled by the *chutzpah* of the populist rejection of the complete and direct sovereignty of God. And he is fearful of the consequences of giving in to this demand. He has prophetic insight into the ways of kings and their lust for power (i.e., their making idols of themselves).

God, however, tells Samuel to anoint a king, originally Saul and later – to replace Saul, who became power mad – David.

Was this an unconditional establishment of monarchy, a surrender of God's powers over society to the King (Divine Right of Kings, in the phrase used by the 17th century New Monarchs)?

It seems to me what happened was quite different. The Kings were to rule Israel, but subject to the warnings and teachings of the Prophets. If we look carefully at Samuel's great oration when he announces the anointment of Saul (Haftorah *Korach*, Samuel I - 2:22), we see he foresees the aberrations of

the monarchs and the burdens their policy, both the successes and the blunders, will impose on the people.

Delusions of grandeur and the pursuit of power can lead kings astray. The negative aspects of leaders have to be weighted alongside the great achievements.

The prophetic tradition in Judaism maintains a dissenting skepticism with regard to human power and opposes moral truth to the dictates of power politics. Prophetic dissent is a wellspring of the Jewish tradition and such dissent in the cause of Torah reappears in post-Prophetic rabbinical teachings and in the tradition of popular morality, *menschlichkeit*. This fundamental moral strength has to be governed by reason and study and consciousness of consequences.

There is a tradition that Samuel is descended from the children of Korach. Korach was also a dissenter, but the controversy he engaged in was rooted in his own delusions of grandeur, his personal and familial ambitions, and his own grievances, which he generalized by elevating his self-serving protest against Moses and Aaron into a self-proclaimed matter of principle.

Samuel, and his successor prophets, protested abuses as messengers of God and in the interests of the Jewish people. The lesson of Samuel is of enduring significance and is relevant today whenever we address issues of importance to our community and the Jewish people.

Websites

Book of Judges
(Jewish Encyclopedia, 1908):

<http://tinyurl.com/yr33fd>

Samuel (Jewish Encyclopedia, 1908):

<http://tinyurl.com/2ydoac>

Samuel (Chabad Knowledge Base):

<http://tinyurl.com/2e7r2a>

Haftorah *Korach*

(text translation from JPS Tanakh):

<http://tinyurl.com/2cl62j>

Hannah Kassner, Bar Ilan University,

"On Controversy," commentary on

Parashah *Korach*:

<http://tinyurl.com/yo7hb2>

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Thinking of you:

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Jeffrey and Maureen Katz by Tracey Kronick and Al Abelson.

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Happy and healthy New Year to:

Helen and Joe Hochberg by Betty Altman.

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Birthday wishes to:

Elliott Levitan on his special birthday by Daphne and Stanley Aron.

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Speedy recovery to:

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In memory of:

Edna Goldfarb by Daphne and Stanley Aron.

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Claire and Irving Bercovitch in their new home by Noreen and Syd Bosley; by Roz and Lee Raskin; and by Dorothy and Maurie Karp.

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In memory of:

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Mazal Tov to:

Josée Posen on obtaining her doctoral degree by Shelley, Gary and Jamie Berezin.

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Birthday wishes to:

Joy Rosenstein on her 85th birthday by Harry; by Bonnie and Alexander Mathew; by Miss K.C.; by Mehetla; by Ronald and Loraine; by Let; by Danna and Alan; by Mitchell; and by Susie and Mark.

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In loving memory of:

Dora Waserman, a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother by Arlene and Mel Schvey and family.

Happy and healthy New Year to:

Morrie Kimmel and family by Sylvia and Sol Kaiman.

Mazal Tov to:

Evelyn and Norman Potechin on the birth of their grandson by Sylvia and Sol Kaiman.

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Mazal Tov to:

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Rabbi Baruch and Raizle Perton on Shul's Bar Mitzvah by Tal Gilboa and Hadar Mazz.

Todah Rabah to:

Rabbi David and Meital Aviel and family by Tal Gilboa and Hadar Mazz.

Happy and healthy New Year to:

The Rechitsman family by Tal Gilboa, Paz, Eitan and Hadar Mazz.

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Birthday wishes to:

Maria Spergel on her 50th birthday by Bev, Bryan, Alison and Rob Glube.

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Continued on page 2B

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In memory of:

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Speedy recovery to:

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Mazel Tov to:

Joel and Toby Yan on the birth of their twin granddaughters by David and Susan Kriger.

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Rose Landau, a dear mother-in-law by Edie Landau.

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In memory of:

Margaret Vajda by Ali and Berel Rodal.

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Mazel Tov to:

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Speedy recovery to:

Diana Malmet by Marvin and Phyllis Silverman.

Continued on page 29

Important Notice to all Fund Advisors of the Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation

If you would like to make changes
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for the 2007 disbursements,
the request needs to be forwarded
to the Foundation office in writing
and received by October 31st.

Changes received verbally will not be accepted
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Please send your allocation change request to:

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Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9

Fax: (613) 798-4695 Attn: Francine Paulin

Email: fpaulin@jewishottawa.com

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Sue Slack, a beloved husband by Sue Slack.

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Sharon and David Appotive and family by Mom, Joy and Seymour Mender and family by Mom.

Birthday wishes to:

Sharon Appotive by Mom.

Joy Mender by Mom.

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Thank you to:

Pat Ross by Phyllis and Max Sternthal.

Jay B. Taller Memorial Fund

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Jay Taller, a dear son by Sally and Morton Taller.

Moses Taller, a dear brother by Sally and Morton Taller.

The Tarantour Family Fund

In memory of:

Edna Goldfarb by Ann Lazear and family.

Birthday wishes to:

Tenne Goldberg on her special birthday by Selma Tarantour and family.

Charles and Rae Tavel Memorial Fund

In memory of:

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Lise and Mark Thaw Family Fund

Continued good health to:

Linda Cegar by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

Happy and healthy New Year to:

Dorothy Nadon; Michael Gennis and Family; Stanley and Gail Hitzig; Mr. and Mrs. Enwyn Thaw; Joany and Andy Katz and family; Mr. and Mrs. Joel Greenberg; Margo Shabinsky Sherman and family; Mr. and Mrs. Jon Reider and family; Ellen and Ron Chemey and family; Norman and Elsa Swedo; Barbara and Gerald Thaw by Lise, Mark, Alayna and Bryan Thaw.

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Great grains expand your repertoire of healthy choices

I love to read good news about my bad habits. I remember exactly where I was when I read about dark chocolate and red wine being beneficial to your health. I was lying in bed, reading the paper and drinking a glass of Cabernet Sauvignon and nibbling a few squares of Callebaut bittersweet chocolate (an amazing food and wine pairing, by the way). Both dark chocolate and red wine are full of antioxidants, which supposedly fight cancer and reduce blood pressure.

It's a no-brainer to incorporate delicious healthy foods – like dark chocolate and red wine – into your diet. It's another thing, altogether, to incorporate those foods that may not taste so great or those with which you are unfamiliar.

We hear a lot these days about whole grains and how we should try to incorporate them into our diet. Switching from white to brown for pasta, rice and bread is one way to get more whole grains into your diet. But why stop at whole wheat pasta and brown rice? Here are a few fantastic grain recipes to get you started.

The first recipe is for a grain called "quinoa" (pronounced keen-wah). It is probably the most ancient grain known to man having been cultivated in the South American Andes since at least 3,000 B.C.E. Today, grain farmers in New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Saskatchewan are planting quinoa. Legend has it that quinoa got its name when the great conquistador, Francisco Pizarro, first tasted the grain in 1532. Apparently, he murmured, "Quinera (fantastic)" after his first bite. The word was misheard and misquoted forever after.

Most grains must be combined with beans to make them a



Made with Love

Cindy Feingold

complete protein, but quinoa is very high in amino acids, so it is a complete protein on its own. In addition to being an excellent source of protein, one cup of cooked quinoa has the same amount of calcium as one litre of milk. Nutrition aside, quinoa has a delicious nutty flavour. It is an extremely versatile grain and can be combined with many different ingredients. Quinoa seeds are naturally coated with saponin, a sticky substance that can taste somewhat bitter. Therefore, it is critical to rinse the quinoa very well before cooking.

The second recipe is for a bulgur salad. Many people believe bulgur is simply cracked wheat. This is not so. While both bulgur and cracked wheat come from whole wheat berries, cracked wheat is uncooked wheat that has been dried first and cracked apart later by coarse milling. Bulgur, on the other hand, is wheat that has been steamed and then dried before being milled. Since bulgur has been steamed, it needs only a minimal soaking for dishes like tabbouleh or just five minutes of cooking for most other dishes. It is high in protein, phosphorus, potassium, calcium and all the B vitamins.

Black Bean and Tomato Quinoa

Serves 4 as a side dish

This recipe comes from the July 2007 issue of *Gourmet* magazine. My daughter Jenna added the raisins. They add a bit of sweetness to the dish.

2 teaspoons grated lime zest
2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 teaspoon sugar
1 cup quinoa
2 cups water
1 (14- to 15-ounce) can black beans, rinsed and drained
1/4 cup raisins

2 medium tomatoes, diced
4 green onions, thinly sliced
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Whisk together lime zest and juice, butter, oil, sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in a large bowl.

Wash quinoa in 3 changes of cold water in a bowl, draining in a sieve each time.

Bring water to a boil in a medium size heavy saucepan. Add quinoa, reduce heat to medium-low, cover and cook until the liquid is absorbed and the quinoa looks transparent; about 12-15 minutes.

Add quinoa to dressing and toss until dressing is absorbed, then stir in black beans, raisins, tomatoes, green onions and cilantro. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Bulgur Salad with Pomegranate Dressing

Serves 6-8 as a side dish

This recipe comes from the May 2007 issue of *Bon Appétit* magazine. It originally called for black-eyed peas but I prefer chickpeas. I also cut the heat, using only one jalapeño, rather than the three the recipe originally called for. If you like heat, feel free to increase the number of peppers. The recipe calls for pomegranate molasses, which is concentrated pomegranate juice. I buy mine at the Indian Allspice Supermarket in Bells Corners.

Dressing:

1/4 cup pomegranate molasses
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 large garlic cloves

Salad:

3 tablespoons olive oil
1 1/2 cups chopped onion
2 cups small grain bulgur (about 10 ounces)
2 cups warm water
1 jalapeño pepper, finely diced
1 cup chick peas, rinsed, drained
(from 15 1/2-ounce can)
1 cup chopped fresh basil (preferably purple basil)
3 large green onions, chopped
2 cups chopped seeded diced plum tomatoes
(about 3/4 pound)
1/2 cup walnuts or pecans, toasted, chopped

Combine pomegranate molasses and oil in small bowl.

Using garlic press, press garlic into mixture and whisk to blend. Season dressing to taste with salt and pepper.

Heat oil in heavy large skillet over medium heat. Add chopped onion and sauté until translucent; about 6 minutes. Add bulgur; stir 1 minute. Add 2 cups warm water, cover, and simmer until water is absorbed, about 5 minutes.

Remove from heat. Mix in jalapeño pepper, then chickpeas, basil and green onions. Cover skillet and let stand 5 minutes.

Transfer bulgur mixture to large bowl. Mix in dressing. Season salad to taste with salt and pepper. This can be done 2 hours ahead and left to sit at room temperature.

Just before serving, mix tomatoes into salad and sprinkle with nuts.



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Modern midrashim about the women in Genesis

Lilith's Ark

Teenage Tales of Biblical Women
By Deborah Bodin Cohen
The Jewish Publication Society 2006
155 pages. Ages 12 and up

Specifically intended for mature teenage girls – but, in my opinion, also of interest to women and to some teenage boys and men – *Lilith's Ark* is a compilation of imaginative stories that provide new perspectives on the lives of the nine women in Genesis and on Eve's midrashic precursor, Lilith.

What sort of new perspectives?

For starters, readers are warned that the book contains "mature subject matter." Yes, that does mean both sexuality and violence are central to some of the stories including, but not limited to, the rape of Dinah, the retaliatory slaughter of the men of Shechem and Tamar's enticement of her father-in-law, Judah.

But new perspectives also refer to author Deborah Bodin Cohen's mindset and frames of reference. The author is an ordained Reform Rabbi and a staunch feminist. Hence she views the stories in the Chumash through very different lenses than the male sages of old who were the primary authors of the vast body of Jewish midrashim.

Given her unique point of departure, Rabbi Cohen's stories literally flesh out the women she writes about.

What were they like as young girls and women? What were their hopes, fears and dreams? How did they deal with such adversity as moving far from their families? What kind of relationships did they have? What legacy would each have wanted to leave to women of future generations?

An even more fundamental, unspoken, question lies at the heart of *Lilith's Ark*. Given the vast cultural and societal differences between ancient times and now, can these biblio-



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

cal women be role models for contemporary teenage girls? If so, then how? If not, why not?

In effect, the stories in *Lilith's Ark* reframe how we think about the midrashic Lilith, and the biblical Eve, Sarah, Hagar, Rehekah, Rachel, Leah, Dina, Tamar and Asenath. They also provide generational continuity for the women, similar to the continuity that already exists for our male biblical ancestors.

Cohen sets the stage for her stories in the introduction. "I melded the Torah text, later biblical commentaries, and historic details about the ancient world with my own experiences, the experiences of girls and women whom I know and my imagination. Envisioning a Torah ark, I imagined Lilith's ark holding these women's stories."

Thus, the prologue and each of the stories begins with a one-pager titled "A Hint from Torah." The hint includes a quote from Genesis, the meaning of the woman's name and a reminder of her role in the Chumash. Only then are readers invited to meet the person.

I was not always comfortable with the women I met or with their situations. But I was gripped and intrigued by each of them in turn. They are fully formed women, warts and all, who find themselves in unusual situations through no fault of their own. Can each make something good come out of it?

The plot of each story makes a strong case, not only for that woman's role in Jewish history, but for modern teens emulating at least one, possibly more, of her characteristics.

Some examples: Lilith wants to be Adam's equal, not subservient; Eve values the pursuit of knowledge more than the good life; Sarah is the organizer and map reader for Abraham's wanderings; Hagar is not a happy slave well before being given to Abraham to produce a son for Sarah; Rehekah is sensitive to God's voice even before Eliezer chooses her to be Isaac's wife; Rachel and Leah each excel at important jobs; Tamar is hell-bent on keeping her promise; and Asenath stubbornly identifies with her birth people.

Throughout these midrashim, we are reminded that worshipping idols was the norm in the ancient world. Yet, the God of Abraham and Sarah prevailed for this group of people. Loyalty, dedication and belief took their toll and had their rewards. After all this time, *Lilith's Ark* is giving voice to those ancient women who paid the price and reaped the benefits.

A discussion guide at the end of *Lilith's Ark* provides readers with a focus for thoughts about each story. It could also be used to encourage readers to think about other Biblical women.



From *Lilith's Ark, Teenage Tales of Biblical Women*

lical women in new ways. As we begin a new cycle of reading Torah in synagogue, *Lilith's Ark* provides a unique and challenging companion for Genesis.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

October 1 to 21, 2007

For a detailed listing
visit www.jewishottawa.org



MONDAY, OCTOBER 1
Drop In Bridge, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Colborne Avenue, 1:00 pm.



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE SHEMINI ATZERET
Oct 3 ⚡ 6:22 pm
SIMCHAT TORAH
Oct 4 ⚡ after 7:22 pm
Oct 5 ⚡ 6:18 pm
Oct 12 ⚡ 6:05 pm
Oct 19 ⚡ 5:53 pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2
Israel Folk Dancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3
Greenberg Families Library, Music Appreciation Series, presented by Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlaesselaer, "The romantic followers: from Schubert and Mendelssohn to Schumann and Brahms," 1:30 pm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4
Jewish Federation of Ottawa "Mission to Ottawa," tour of the community facilities including meeting agency representatives. RSVP by October 4: 613-798-4696, ext. 232.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7
The Taglit-birthright Israel Foundation and The David Project present, "Footprints," a Jewish community charity event, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Avenue, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-737-5006.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9
Israel Folk Dancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10
Greenberg Families Library, Music Appreciation Series, with Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlaesselaer, "The romantic followers: from Schubert and Mendelssohn to Schumann and Brahms," 1:30 pm.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11
Jewish Federation of Ottawa "Annual Campaign Telethon. JET, Lawyer's Lunch and Learn, Gowlings, 160 Elgin Street, 26th Floor, noon

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14
Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Annual Campaign Telethon.

SOLOWAY JCC Adult Department, Stained Glass Mosaic Day Workshop, 9:30 am.

OTTAWA JEWISH WAR VETERANS Annual General Meeting and luncheon with guest speaker Leonard Stern, \$20, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Colborne Avenue, 11:30 am. Reservations: 613-858-1767.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15
Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program, Lecture Series with Dr. Henri Habib, "Dynamics of Saudi Politics and the Future of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East," 7:30 pm.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15
Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Annual Campaign Telethon. JET, Lawyer's Lunch and Learn, Gowlings, 160 Elgin Street, 26th Floor, noon

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
Israel Folk Dancing, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES, Annual General Meeting with guest speaker Rabbi Irwin Kula, 1255 Carling Avenue, 7:00 pm. RSVP: 613-722-2225.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17
Greenberg Families Library, Music Appreciation Series, with Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlaesselaer, "About romantic transformations: (Berlioz and Liszt) and national contents (Tchaikovsky, Dvorak, Sibelius)," 1:30 pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
Soloway JCC Adult Department, Bagel Brunch with Professor Rebecca Margolis, 10:30 am. Ottawa Jewish Film Society, "Campfire," 2:00 pm.

COMING SOON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24
Canadian Hadassah-WIZO, Ottawa Centre, celebrates the achievements of three exceptional women, with dessert reception, Agudath Israel Synagogue, 7:30 pm. RSVP: 613-798-7644.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner, honouring Jim Orban, publisher of the Ottawa Citizen, with keynote speaker CNN's Larry King. Info: 613-798-2411.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28
Hillel Lodge Auxiliary holds its annual tea. For more information call Naomi Cracow at 613-820-0420 or Hillel Lodge at 613-723-3900.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Brenda Schaefer, calendar coordinator at 798-9818 ext. 265. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-9839 or email to bschaefer@ccottawa.com.



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BULLETIN DEADLINES

OCTOBER 3 FOR OCTOBER 22
OCTOBER 17 FOR NOVEMBER 5
OCTOBER 31 FOR NOVEMBER 19
NOVEMBER 14 FOR DECEMBER 3 *

2008

JANUARY 2 FOR JANUARY 21
JANUARY 16 FOR FEBRUARY 4

* Community-wide issue (all dates subject to change)